

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
May 18, 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 at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Bassin with a salute to the flag.

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

Fire Chief

Mr. Boice reported that there had been six calls in the last month. The Memorial Day parade will step off at 11am at the Town Hall. The Fire Department will hold an open house on June 10th at 10am.

Supervisors Report

Supervisor Bassin gave the following report:

1. Financial Report – April was another normal month. Cash on hand at month end was \$1,532,000. The 12/31 cash projection indicates we will have about \$943,500 in cash on hand at year-end, slightly over the \$927,000 budget. We learned this month that we are going to receive \$47,000 in the first of two 2017 mortgage tax payments. This is \$17,000 over the full year budget of \$30,000. We anticipate a “normal” \$15,000 second mortgage tax payment in November for a total of \$62,000, or about \$32,000 above budget.
2. Local Laws 2 & 3 – We will hold public hearings on Local Laws 2 & 3 prior to the 5/18 TB meeting and will do SEQRA reviews on both laws during the meeting. County Planning Board has both laws on their agenda for 5/16. We will consider both local laws for adoption in June.
3. Colleen Lutz –Colleen was appointed to the County Environmental Management Council at the BOS meeting on 5/10. On May 22 she will also be awarded the 2017 Individual Award for “Good Earthkeeping” by the County EMC for her work with Ancram’s CAC and for her efforts to successfully secure culvert grants, Trees for Tribes grants and for her efforts to manage the Ancram culvert project over the past few years. Colleen’s contributions to good earthkeeping and environmental conservation have been made over an extensive career in Ancram Town government. She has served as Secretary of the Town Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, as an Assistant in the Building Department, as a member of the Conservation Advisory Council, as Chair of the Town’s Culvert Committee, as a member of the Town’s Climate Smart Community Task force and as a member of the Youth Commission and Kid’s Camp Board. In

all these roles, Colleen worked to make her colleagues and the residents of Ancram aware of the environmental issues facing the community as a routine part of the discussion.

4. Doodletown WMA - Over 30 people attended the May 1 meeting with DEC which had been set up by CAC to review the “plan” for the WMA. Residents expressed concerns about increased traffic and trash, parking along Doodletown & Westfall, hunting and trespassing on private lands adjacent to the WMA, logging and clear cutting 10-20% of the 690 acres, and the use of pesticides to control invasives after the logging and clear cutting is done. DEC has responded to emails from concerned residents, and plans to hold a public hearing once they have completed their “plan”.

5. Speed limits – Discussed the Sawchuck Rd situation with Deputy David Proper, who recommends that we reduce the speed limit to 35, to make it consistent with what is already posted at 35 at the bottom of the hill in Millerton and due to a combination of slick winter roads and slow moving farm equipment in the spring, summer and fall. Jim Miller and I have reviewed Pats Rd again, and strongly recommend that the speed limit on Pats also be reduced to 35 due to the combination of slick winter conditions, slow moving farm equipment in the spring, summer and fall and the added risk of residents walking on Pats. We have received a request from Jerry Peele to take some action to slow people down on Wiltsie Bridge Rd as they drive by his farm. The speed limit there is already 40. The problem is the road rises to create a limited sight distance when driving toward Herondale from Empire Rd, which makes it impossible to see animals crossing the road until it’s too late.

6. CAFO General Permit – We have been asked to join an amicus brief in a lawsuit against DEC for inadequate regulations to control CAFO operations. I have asked for opinions on this from CAC, NYS Department of Ag & Markets, Cornell, DEC and the Ancram Agricultural Advisory Council.

7. Summer Job Opportunities – No one from Ancram applied for the County Summer Intern Job, so I have nominated a student from Hudson at the recommendation of Hudson Supervisor Rick Scalera.

8. County – The NY State Budget requires that counties develop a county-wide shared services plan by August 2017 and that the plan has to be approved, or not, by mid-September. There is no penalty for failing to approve a shared services plan, but the State has indicated that they may match any savings achieved from the shared services plan.

Doodletown Wildlife Management Area

Mr. Jack Lindsey gave concerns about the proposed parking lot and the fact that the area of water that drains into the Roe Jan is protected. Mr. Lindsey has contacted Peter Paden and he has agreed to look into this. Mr. Bassin felt that there was not much that the town can do on a local level except persuade the state to use common sense. Mr. Lindsey felt that if the parking lot and driveway egress and ingress are not correct and up to the towns standards then the process will be hindered. Mr. Lindsey felt the town can be strict in this. Mr. Boice also pointed

out that there are problems with parking at other state sites, such as the Alander trail in Boston Corners.

Speed limits

Mr. Bassin brought up the proposed speed limit changes on Sawchuck and Pats roads. Mr. Bassin noted that the County Deputy Proper suggested 35mph for both. The board will discuss this during the resolutions.

Town Board

Councilwoman Israel made a motion seconded by Councilman Boice accepting the registration form and disclaimer for participation in the RoeJan Ramble. Motion carried.

Highway

Mr. Miller reported that the department has been shimming roads, paved over the Pat's Road culvert and worked on grader problems. The department was down a man for a week. The Houghtaling house will be coming down in June. The department has the following schedule: June 5-6: Paving East Ancram and Roche Roads. Dump Day filled 6 dumpsters and 2 trucks of tires.

A motion was made by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to approve the Highway Superintendent to attend Highway School June 11th through the 15th. Motion carried.

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk gave a report on attending the Town Clerk Conference in Rochester. She stated that she has several new ideas for the office. She thanked the board for allowing her to attend.

Court

The Court office will be advertising for a deputy clerk.
Mr. Wilcox stated that the tickets are up.

CSCTF

The committee has received a \$2500 grant from NYSERTA

FAC

There is a subcommittee looking into investing in short term CD's.

Ethics

The Ethics board sent a letter and met with Faso about the national ethics committee.

Mr. Lindsey asked about the towns oversight of rental properties in the instance of poisoned wells and the cutting off of hot water. Mr. Clark said that there is nothing in the zoning laws but that the state building code and public health code would oversee the matters.

Resolution #21 of 2017: New Truck Body – Resolved, that the Highway Superintendent is authorized to purchase a new dump body for the 2006 International plow truck for a cost not to exceed \$35,000, and to fund this purchase by transferring budget from other parts of the highway budget.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Boice and moved for adoption. Discussion:

The board discussed at length whether there was a need to change the speed limits on these roads. It was decided that 35mph was excessively slow for a downgrade hill. They decided that 40mph would be adequate.

Resolution #22 of 2017: Sawchuck Rd Speed limit – Whereas, there is no posted speed limit on the Ancram section of Sawchuck Road which allows drivers to travel at 55 mph regardless of conditions, and **Whereas**, the Town of North East section of Sawchuck Road is posted at 35 mph, and **Whereas**, the transition from Ancram to Northeast is a steep downhill slope, and whereas Sawchuck Road is used by slow moving farm equipment in the spring, summer and fall and is often slippery and dangerous in the winter, it is therefore **Resolved**, that in the interests of public safety, the speed limit on Sawchuck Road in the Town of Ancram be lowered to 40 mph from an unposted 55 mph, and that the Highway Superintendent be authorized to request approval of this speed limit reduction from the Columbia County Traffic Safety Board, the Columbia County Highway Department and the NYS Department of Transportation.

Resolution carried.

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

Resolution #23 of 2017: Pats Rd Speed limit – Whereas, there is no posted speed limit on Pats Road which allows drivers to travel at 55 mph regardless of conditions, and whereas Pats Road is used by slow moving farm equipment in the spring, summer and fall and is often slippery and dangerous in the winter, it is therefore **Resolved**, that in the interests of public safety, the speed limit on Pats Road in the Town of Ancram be lowered to a posted 35 mph from an unposted 55 mph, and that the Highway Superintendent be authorized to request approval of this speed limit reduction from the Columbia County Traffic Safety Board, the Columbia County Highway Department and the NYS Department of Transportation.

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

Resolution #24 of 2017 of the Town of Ancram Town Board Intent to be Lead Agency and Identification as a Type I Action to Adopt Town of Ancram Highway Construction Standards

WHEREAS, the Town of Ancram adopted a Comprehensive Plan in April 2010 pursuant to Town Law 272-a; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board appointed a Subdivision Review Committee and tasked them to update the Town Highway Standards that were included in LL#1 of 2015 to be consistent with the adopted Comprehensive Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Subdivision Review Committee developed such language with the aid of a consultant, engineer, and legal counsel, and subsequently determined that the Town was better served to have a separate local law detailing the highway, road and driveway requirements in the Town of Ancram; and

WHEREAS, Local Law 2 of 2017 has been formulated as such separate law detailing highway design standards and that language has been submitted to the Town Board for review and adoption as a separate local law oriented to road and driveway standards; and

WHEREAS, the Town engineer, attorney and planner have reviewed the draft language to ensure consistency with state and local regulations and with best management practices for engineering; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) 6 NYCRR Part 617 and has determined that the action is subject to SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action will not require permits and approvals from any other local, regional and State agencies prior to adoption of the plan and is therefore not a coordinated review; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that the proposed action is a Type I Action, pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) 6 NYCRR Part 617.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the applicable standards of SEQRA 6 NYCRR Part 617, the Town of Ancram Town Board concludes that it is the appropriate agency to serve as, and declares itself lead agency for the environmental review of the proposed Type I Action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Ancram Town Board hereby authorizes development and circulation of a copy of the Full Environmental Assessment Form pursuant to the requirements set forth in SEQR 6 NYCRR Part 617.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to sign the Full Environmental Assessment Form.

WHEREUPON, this Resolution was declared adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Ancram.

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

Resolution # 25 of the Town of Ancram Town Board Intent to be Lead Agency and Identification as a Type I Action to Update Town of Ancram Subdivision Regulations

WHEREAS, the Town of Ancram adopted a Comprehensive Plan in April 2010 pursuant to Town Law 272-a; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board appointed a Subdivision Review Committee and tasked them to update the Town Highway Standards included in LL#1 of 2015 to be consistent with the adopted Comprehensive Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Subdivision Review Committee developed such language with the aid of a consultant, engineer, and legal counsel, and subsequently submitted such language to the Town Board for review and adoption as a separate local law oriented to road and driveway standards; and

WHEREAS, The Town desired consistency between the proposed road and driveway law and the subdivision law to ensure standard use of definitions and consistency in requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) 6 NYCRR Part 617 and has determined that the action is subject to SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action will not require permits and approvals from any other local, regional and State agencies prior to adoption of the plan and is therefore not a coordinated review; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that the proposed action is a Type I Action, pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) 6 NYCRR Part 617.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the applicable standards of SEQRA 6 NYCRR Part 617, the Town of Ancram Town Board concludes that it is the appropriate agency to serve as, and declares itself lead agency for the environmental review of the proposed Type I Action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Ancram Town Board hereby authorizes development and circulation of a copy of the Full Environmental Assessment Form pursuant to the requirements set forth in SEQR 6 NYCRR Part 617.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to sign the Full Environmental Assessment Form.

WHEREUPON, this Resolution was declared adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Ancram.

A motion was made by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to approve the following negative declaration. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #26 of 2017: TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION RELATED to THE PROPOSED Highway Construction Standards Local Law #2 - TYPE I ACTION

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Ancram desires to further implement its Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town has undertaken a comprehensive review and update of its land use regulations to ensure consistency with that plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town has developed a highway construction standards law that having provisions consistent with that plan; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action has been determined to be a Type I action, pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) 6 NYCRR Part 617.4, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has submitted the draft law to the Columbia County Planning Board as required by NYS General Municipal Law 239-m and the proposed action does not require any other permits or approvals from other State and Federal agencies prior to adoption; 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 Highway Construction Standards law, as described in Part III of the Full Environmental Assessment Form will have no significant adverse environmental impacts as per 617.7 of 6 NYCRR Part 617 (SEQRA) because this law:

- Fully implements the recommendations made in the April 2010 Town of Ancram Comprehensive Plan and thus assists the Town in meeting their environmental, cultural, agricultural, and historic protection goals as outlined in that plan.
- The environment will not be adversely affected and in fact the Town Board has determined there will be benefits due to:
 1. Providing adequate access for emergency vehicles and for road maintenance;
 2. Including highway standards designed to maintain the rural roads, and rural

- aesthetic character of Ancram;
3. Coordinates with adopted zoning and subdivision laws for clarity;
 4. Updates stormwater standards for roads and driveways to be consistent with NYS Stormwater rules and the design manual;
 5. Addresses storm drainage to prevent runoff and water pollution;
 6. Clarifies construction rules for driveways, common driveways, and roads;
 7. Updates cul-de-sac design standards to reduce their impact on rural character;
 8. Reduces block size to be consistent with Ancram's traditional hamlet style of development;
 9. Allows for gravel roads in certain conditions, which will decrease use of impermeable surfaces

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Ancram Town Board hereby declares that adoption of the Town of Ancram Highway Construction Standards law described herein, will not have any significant negative environmental impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes filing of the negative declaration, according to SEQRA, 6 NYCRR Part 617; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to sign the Full Environmental Assessment Form.

WHEREUPON this Resolution was declared adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Ancram.

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

Resolution #27 of 2017: to Adopt a NEGATIVE DECLARATION related to proposed Local Law #3 - Updated Land Subdivision Regulations-TYPE I ACTION

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Ancram desires to further implement its Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town has undertaken a comprehensive review and update of its land use regulations to ensure consistency with that plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town has drafted updates to the Land Subdivision Regulations (Local Law #1 of 2015); and

WHEREAS, the proposed action has been determined to be a Type I action, pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) 6 NYCRR Part 617.4, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has submitted the draft law to the Columbia County Planning Board as required by NYS General Municipal Law 239-m and the proposed

action does not require any other permits or approvals from other State and Federal agencies prior to adoption; 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 Updated Land Subdivision Regulations, as described in Part III of the Full Environmental Assessment Form will have no significant adverse environmental impacts as per 617.7 of 6 NYCRR Part 617 (SEQRA) because the update:

- Fully implements the recommendations made in the April 2010 Town of Ancram Comprehensive Plan and thus assists the Town in meeting their environmental, cultural, agricultural, and historic protection goals as outlined in that plan.
- Updates regulations to be consistent with new Highway Construction Standards Law. The environment will not be adversely affected and in fact the Town Board has determined there will be benefits due to:
 1. Ensuring consistency in definitions and references with the new LL#2 of 2017 (Highway Construction Standards).
 2. The land subdivision regulations adopted in 2015 remain almost totally unchanged. However, for clarity and to ensure consistency with LL #2, a few additional passages have been inserted:
 3. LL #3 incorporates into Article II updated definitions pertaining to access/traffic ways, erosion and sedimentation control plan, notice of intent, stormwater pollution prevention plan, and other definitions cited in LL #2.
 4. Article IV, Section 2 D (Lots) of LL #3 contains updated, more specific text pertaining to monuments and lot corner markers. Recommended by Pat Prendergast, this text is clearer than the original 1994 text.
 5. Article IV, Section 3 (Drainage Improvements) of LL #3 now contains updated text that more specifically and comprehensively includes reference to the New York State Stormwater Design Manual and includes drainage design criteria previously located elsewhere.
 6. Because the original Article IV, Section 5 (Specifications for Water, Sewer, Road and Driveway Construction within the Town of Ancram) has now been wholly updated and properly relocated as separate local law, the superseded text has been deleted and replaced with a reference pointing readers to LL #2.

7. Article V, at Section 2 A 3 and at Section 4 B 8c, now contains updated, more specific text recommended by Pat Prendergast about the certification that surveyors and engineers must affix to plats and other documents.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Ancram Town Board hereby declares that adoption of the updated Town of Ancram Land Subdivision Regulations described herein, will not have any significant negative environmental impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes filing of the negative declaration, according to SEQRA, 6 NYCRR Part 617; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to sign the Full Environmental Assessment Form.

WHEREUPON, this Resolution was declared adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Ancram.

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

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk