

3. Veterans Property Tax Exemptions – In 2017 the County passed two laws which expanded and extended property tax exemptions for veterans. Towns are also able to adopt these new local laws. We will be reviewing proposed Local Law # 1 of 2018 which increases the amount of the veterans’ tax exemptions, and Local Law # 2 of 2018 which extends the property tax exemption for Cold War Veterans. Our decision this month will be whether we want to take these proposed local laws to a public hearing in January, and consider them for adoption at the January 2018 Town Board meeting. Copies of these local laws are attached.

4. Policies & procedures – You have seen a first draft of the Organizational Resolutions, which we will consider for adoption at our January 11 Organizational Meeting. We will also be reviewing our Financial Process Manual, Purchasing Policy and Employee Manual at the Organizational Meeting to determine if there are any changes we want to make to these documents. These documents are on the website (www.townofancram.org or www.ancramny.org) and I’ll send them around to you separately. Suggest you review them before the Organizational Meeting.

5. County Budget – County plans to adopt a 2018 Budget next week with a tax increase of about 1.84%. The County budget assumes no cuts in service, more money for Columbia Greene Community College and an increase in 2018 year end cash balances. The good news is the County’s financial situation is getting stronger.

Highway Department

Mr. Miller reported that the Houghtaling house is scheduled to come down sometime in January. The new John Deere Tractor has been delivered. “Narrow road” and 25 mph warning signs for Westfall road have been ordered.

The Town Clerk and the Highway Superintendent had opened the sealed bids for road materials the previous day. The following companies bid: Callarusso, Amenia Sand and Gravel, Peckham, Red Wing and Callanan.

A motion was made to approve all bids for road materials which were received except for Callanan who only bid delivered. Motion carried.

The new grader is scheduled for delivery the first half of March.

Climate Smart Community Task Force

The committee is in the process of finalizing the Town’s submission of four climate smart actions with NYSERDA to qualify for a \$80,000 grant. Mr. Clark reminded the Board that CSCTF has until December 31st to report the total energy consumed by each building.

Bonnie Hundt asked if the charging station had been installed. She was told it was. She asked about upgrading it. Mr Bassin said that this station had been donated and

intalled by the Lougheed family with no cost to the town. To purchase an upgraded EVCS could cost the Town as much as \$60,000 and there was not enough demand at this point to justify that kind of investment.

ZBA

Bonnie Hundt reported that there were four volunteers who were all willing to serve. The ZBA has recommended Sharon Cleveland and Rob Horowitz as the two alternates. Steve Oleya has volunteered to chair the committee and is recommended by current ZBA chair Hundt.

Camp/Pool

The committee continues to be formed. The chair is still not set and will possibly be chosen at the first meeting which will be taking place after the first of the year. The town board is hoping that there will be a core camp/pool board group with small break away groups who will handle items like artist in residence and field trips and will report to the main group. Councilman Clark also stressed that there needs to be a mission statement and rules set in place from the onset. Councilwoman Israel suggested Marie McDermott for the chair. She would reach out to her. Mr. Bassin suggested Jenn Boice or Colleen Lutz.

Communications

Councilwoman Israel reported that the committee is looking for someone to draft a newsletter.

Monument Committee

Jim MacArthur, committee chair, addressed the board. He showed the board a flyer from the Hillsdale monument and suggested that this was an idea of what Ancram could work towards. His mission is to have one monument at the town hall with the names of all of Ancram's vets on it. The Hillsdale monument cost approximately \$21,000 to build. This was raised through private donations and grants. Councilwoman Israel felt that while Hillsdale's monument is nice, the monument here should be reflective of Ancram. The committee will be meeting on January 13th.

Comprehensive Review Committee

The question was raised about town board members attending these meetings. Councilman Clark reminded the board that three members or more of the town board together constitutes a meeting. Mr. Bassin and Mr. Clark will both be on the committee. It was decided that other town board members can attend the meetings but not play an active role and that would not constitute a board meeting .

CAC-Doodletown

Jamie Purinton of the CAC reported that she was not impressed or convinced by the DEC's presentation on the Doodletown Wildlife Preserve. She felt that it was a sales job to the public. She said that the presenters were very worthy but that there are a lot of questions still. The CAC will continue to review the plan. Once the DEC has presented their final plan, there will be another public presentation.

Road Signs

After looking at the town entrance sign, Mr. Dennis Sigler has agreed to have a sign placed on his property entering Ancram on County Route 7.

Historic District

The Ancramdale Historic District is set to be looked at by the State at the first quarter meeting.

Broadband

Fairpoint will be mapping the fiberoptic lines for the next six months.

Unsafe Buildings

The Porters Store building is still looking for grant funding to have it taken down.

The following Highway Budget adjustments were offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Boice and moved for adoption. Motion carried. From 5110.4 General Repairs \$3,100 to 5130.4 Machinery Repairs \$3,000 and 5142.4 Snow removal \$100.

The following General Budget adjustments were offered by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Clark and moved for adoption. Motion carried. From Fund Balance: \$48,000 to Culvert Capital Project 9950.9. From Supervisor 1220.4 \$100 to Town Board 1010.4. From Fund Balance \$550 to Insurance 1910.4.

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

Mr. Bassin touched on the FAC's decision to purchase treasury bills. He reported that there is a \$40 per transaction fee and that this is may not be economical to buy a ladder of short term treasuries, but we may have to buy a 6 month term. Mr. Bassin is going to do more research.

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk