

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
January 18, 2018**

Present: Supervisor Arthur Bassin Councilman Hugh Clark
 Councilman David Boice Councilwoman Madeline Israel
 Councilwoman Bonnie Hundt
 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.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Boice to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2017 meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2018 Year End-Organizational Meeting. Motion carried.

Mr. Bassin asked if there was anything on the agenda from which members of the board wish to be recused from. Supervisor Bassin and Councilman Clark both cited item #3, Local Law #1: Increasing Veterans exemption and item #4, Local Law #2: Extending Cold War Veterans Exemption. The reason for their recusal is that they would benefit from the passing of both laws as both Supervisor Bassin and Councilman Clark are Veterans.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt and moved for adoption. Resolution carried by roll call vote: Three Ayes; Two recusals

Resolution #7 of 2018: Local Law #1 of 2018: Increasing Veteran's Exemptions:
Resolved: that the Ancram Town Board approves the adoption of Local Law of 2018 increasing veterans' exemptions to the amounts specified in Local Law #1.

The following resolution was offered by Councilwoman Hundt and seconded by Councilman Boice and moved for adoption. Resolution carried by roll call vote: Three Ayes; Two recusals.

Resolution #8 of 2018: Local Law #2 of 2018: Extending Cold War Veterans

Exemptions: Resolved that the Ancram Town Board approves the adoption of Local Law #2 of 2018 extending cold war veterans' exemptions as specified in Local Law #2.

Supervisors Report

1. Financial Report – Our year-end cash came in at \$758,000 is slightly better than our prior month estimate of \$745,000 and about \$70,000 above the YE budget for cash of about \$685,000 (after adjusting the cash budget for the truck loan prepayment of \$242,000). Our better than budgeted YE 2017 cash position results from better than budgeted 2017 sales tax and mortgage tax receipts and savings in the highway department and general fund verses budget. Later this month we expect to receive about \$70,000 in 4Q sales tax receipts, and \$16,000 from DEC as our final culvert grant reimbursement, and we expect to incur \$25,000 in costs to demolish the Houghtaling house next to the Town Garage. We expected the DEC reimbursement and demolition project to happen in 2017.

2. Veterans' Property Tax Exemptions – In 2017 the County passed two laws which increased and extended property tax exemptions for veterans, consistent with NYS law. Towns are also able to adopt these new local laws. We will be holding public hearings on 1/18 on 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. Both Deputy Supervisor Hugh Clark and I will have to recuse ourselves on this matter, so I have asked Councilwoman Israel to manage the presentation, discussion and consideration of these local laws.

3. Climate Smart Community – Because our Climate Smart Community Task Force chaired by Suzan Flamm has completed four high impact climate smart actions (EVCS, energy audit, energy code training and unified solar permit) Ancram has been designated by NYSERDA as a "Climate Smart Community" and has qualified for an \$80,000 grant. We will be getting a report Thursday from the CSCTF on the status of our grant application.

Board Members

Councilman Boice questioned Mr. Bassin if there were any insurance issues that the board members needed to be made aware of. He stated that the reason for

his asking this was that he knows members of other Highway Departments and that he has heard that there have been some insurance claims made by our highway department that the board is not aware of. He felt that the board is being kept in the dark and questioned why they are not being told when issues happen. Mr. Miller said that he had backed into a tree last summer with the pick-up and that had been fixed with the insurance this fall. Mr. Miller said that he had been in a fender bender in Albany three weeks ago. Another incident involved the payloader during a windstorm when a tree limb dented the hood. Mr. Boice asked that there be a loss run provided for the board at the next meeting. Mr. Boice asked that the board members be notified when these types of incidents happen. Mr. Miller said that this week while an employee was pushing salt into the shed, a salt delivery truck pulled in by the door and the employee backed into the salt delivery truck. Mr. Boice said that he understands that in this type of business accidents like this happen. Councilwoman Hundt asked if there was going to be training on the new grader. Mr. Miller said that the company is coming down to show how it works.

Councilwoman Hundt said that she is happy to be at her first full meeting.

Councilwoman Israel is in the process of putting together a new communications committee and producing a newsletter.

Highway

Mr. Miller reported that there were seven snow events in December and seven in January so far. On Tuesday night the powersteering box went in Avery's truck and it needed to be towed. The Houghtaling house will be taken down this next week if it is above freezing. Mr. Miller asked if there were any questions on the paving plan. This year the department will finish Woods and will work on Prospect. Councilwoman Hundt asked about the capital plan and why the department would want need to replace the bucket truck. Mr. Miller said that it is getting to the point where it may not pass inspection.

Mrs. Adriene Citrin addressed the board. She was concerned because her husband Mike had been taken in the Community Rescue ambulance a few weeks back and that they took a much longer route to get to the hospital. A discussion took place regarding this and other concerns brought up by Councilman Boice.

Mr. Bassin said that he will contact Community Rescue and try and set up a meeting with the Citrins and Mr. Boice.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt to approve the warrents. Motion carried.

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

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk