

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Board Meeting
November 15, 2018**

Present: Supervisor Arthur Bassin Councilman Hugh Clark
 Councilwoman Madeline Israel Councilwoman Bonnie Hundt
 Town Clerk Monica Cleveland

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

Councilman Clark made a motion that the Town Board enter into an executive session to discuss the employment and financial histories of two particular persons. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Israel and carried unanimously.

Executive Session (7.02 pm to 7.20 pm)

Councilwoman Hundt made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Israel to return the Town Board from the executive session discussion of the employment and financial history of two particular persons to the regular Town Board Meeting. Motion carried.

Mr. Bassin asked if there were any items on the agenda which any member of the board wished to recuse themselves from. There were none.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Clark to approve the October 18, 2018 Preliminary Budget Public Hearing and Town Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Supervisor's Report

1. Financial Report – Another normal financial month in October. General fund spending through YTD October was about flat to last year. Highway spending YTD through October, excluding the \$240,000 for the new grader this year and the \$327,000 in debt repayment and interest costs last year, was about \$30,000 under last year. Cash on hand as of the end of October was \$1,030,000. YE cash projection is \$827,000, down \$9,000 from last month's

YE projection of \$836,000 and \$91,000 better than the YE budgeted cash number of \$736,000. The improvement versus budget in YE cash projections is primarily caused by better than budgeted sales tax receipts (\$50,000), bank interest and fees for the Court, Building Department and Highway Department, coupled with a handful of lower than budgeted expense categories in the GF and Highway. About \$900,000 of our \$1,030,000 in cash on hand is on deposit with TD Bank in their liquid investment account, which currently earns 1.9%, up from 1.7% last month, and floats with changes in interest rates.

2. 2019 Final Budget – We will conduct a public hearing on the Final Budget at 6:45 pm on Thursday, 11/15. Following the public hearing, the Town Board will have an opportunity to review and revise the Budget before we consider it for adoption. You have previously received the background materials for the Final 2019 Budget Public Hearing, which are also posted on the Town website at www.ancramny.org.

3. Traffic Safety – We have received the two radar speed signs. Jim Miller plans to mount them on trailers and have them operating in the next few weeks. In addition, we have received information from the County Sheriff's Department about how to arrange for additional deputy sheriff patrol time in Ancram. We will discuss this opportunity Thursday, and decide how we want to proceed.

4. Comp Plan Review Process – The Comp Plan Review Committee and Hamlet Planning Groups have finalized the updated Vision, Goals and Strategies. The Comp Plan Review Committee will review a first draft of the Comp Plan update at its 11/19 meeting.

5. OSC Audit – The NYS Office of State Comptroller (OSC) initiated an audit of the Town three weeks ago. The audit starts with a "risk assessment", which will lead to a determination of the scope of the audit. The last time Ancram was audited by the OSC was in 2009.

Mr. Bassin recommended that the board appoint a committee to look into funding additional sheriff department patrols in the Town of Ancram. Mr. Bassin suggested Councilman Clark, Councilman Boice, Mr. Miller and himself for the committee. Councilwoman Hundt pointed out that three members of the Board cannot sit on the same committee. Mr. Bassin agreed. They will discuss in the coming weeks who wishes to serve, as Mr. Boice had to leave the meeting due to the inclement weather and

accidents. Mr. Bassin said that the scope of the discussion within the committee should be where they would patrol and when. Councilman Clark also had questions about liability, mileage reimbursements, minimum day amounts, court responsibilities. Councilwoman Israel felt that this was pointless if it was not random.

The Board discussed the thought of tape recording the Town Board meetings. The Town Clerk stated that there are records retention specifications when it came to tape recordings of the meeting.

Budget

The Board discussed the compensation of the Court Clerk and the Deputy Court Clerk. The Court Clerk is asking for an hourly increase to \$20 and \$18 for the deputy. At this time the board has budgeted an increase for all clerks to \$17.60. Councilman Clark made the statement that he felt that the town was lucky to have very good people clerking and working in all the towns departments. He felt that each person had to have very specific knowledge for each of their jobs and judgement to that effect. Each person, in Mr. Clark's opinion, was important to the town as a whole.

Councilwoman Israel felt that the Court wanted to pay the clerks more because they felt that the job was more intricate than the other clerks and should be paid more than the other clerks. She questioned that if the board gave all the town clerks \$20 an hour, would the court clerks then want more than that. Councilwoman Hundt felt that at this time, in comparison to the other towns, the Town of Ancram is paying a fair wage. Councilman Clark commented that his impression is that the workload is not as much as other towns and that there appear to be fewer cases in Ancram than surrounding towns. Councilwoman Israel suggested that a raise be given to all the clerks, proposing \$18.50 an hour. This she felt would be something that would show a change in their paycheck.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Clark to give a 5% raise, at an amount of \$18.40/hr, to all clerks for the Town of Ancram in the year 2019. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Councilman Clark asked if this would fit in the final budget. Mr. Bassin said yes, it would as there is an extra \$8,000 in the contingent account.

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

Resolution #27 of 2018: Adopt 2019 Budget – Resolved, that the 2019 Final Budget for the town of Ancram be approved as presented with a total tax levy of \$760,103, which represents a tax decrease of \$7,616, or .99%.

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

Resolution #28 of 2018: 2019 employee health insurance program – Resolved that the Town Supervisor is authorized to enter into an agreement with CDPHP through Apollo Partners to provide the CDPHP Bronze HD EPO Plan #423 at a monthly premium cost of \$416.57 per individual to eligible Town employees and families, and it is further Resolved, that the Town of Ancram will pay 100% of the CHPHP premium for this Plan for eligible employees and 50% of the premium for wives and children who participate in the Town health insurance plan, and it is further Resolved, that the Town of Ancram will contribute \$750 to an Health Savings Account for each eligible employee, and will pay for or reimburse eligible employees for any unreimbursed medical costs incurred over \$1500 up to the policy out of pocket embedded maximum of \$7,150 per person or \$14,300 per family. It is further Resolved, that any employee eligible for town health insurance hired before January 1, 2011 who opts out of the Town health insurance program will received a \$4800 opt out payment in lieu of health insurance coverage, or an opt out payment of \$3600 if hired after January 1, 2011.

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

Resolution #29 of 2018: Retiree Health Insurance – Resolved, that the Ancram Supervisor is authorized to enter into an agreement with Blue Shield of Northeastern New York to provide health insurance in 2019 to one retiree and spouse using the Blue Shield Forever Blue 799 (PPO) Plan EF1 TRx, which is the same plan that is in effect for retirees in 2018, at a premium cost of \$370 per month per retiree, which the Town will pay; it is further Resolved that, as in 2018, the Town will contribute \$850 to the retiree and to the spouse as partial compensation for out of pocket drug and medical co-pay costs.

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

Resolution #30 of 2018: Columbia County Humane Society Contract – Resolved, that the Ancram Supervisor is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Columbia Greene Humane Society, on substantially the same terms and conditions as are contained in the 2018 Contract, to provide care and shelter in 2019 for dogs from Ancram brought to the Society by the Town of Ancram Animal Control Officer.

Councilwoman Hundt thanked the board for supporting the increase to the library budget line in the coming year.

A motion was made to approve the following budget adjustments by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel. Motion carried.

To Insurance 1910.4 \$300, Rec. 7020.4 \$1500, PB/ZBA Clerk 8010.14 \$1750
From Justice 1010.1 \$1550, zoning 1010.41 \$1000, CAC 8020.4C \$1,000

To Repairs 5130.4 From 5110.4 Repairs \$7500
To 5142.4 Snow Removal From 5140.4 Brush and Weeds \$4000

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

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk