

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Public Hearing Preliminary 2019 Budget
October 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 with a salute to the flag at 7:10pm.

Mr. Bassin stated that the town's thoughts are with the Miller family following the loss of their barn and animals to a fire Sunday night. Mr. Bassin also thanked the Fire Company for their efforts. Councilman Boice reported that 14 departments responded to the scene and 22 departments overall helped through personel or backup of other departments through standby.

Mr. Bassin introduced the new Town Resident Deputy Sheriff, Joe Kilmer. Mr. Kilmer spoke to the board and those present. He said he has been an officer for 9 years and 4 as a Columbia County Deputy. He grew up on East Ancram Road and now lives in Copake.

Brenda Adams of Habitat for Humanity addressed the board concerning the project in Ancramdale. She said that the house has begun construction and is at the point of pouring the slab but that the weather has not cooperated. The group has had a hard time finding qualified applicants. Councilwoman Hundt says that there is a rumor circulating that the group is constructing six houses. Ms. Adams said no, there were only two houses being constructed. She also specified that the definition of a family is a much looser term then what most think of as a nucular family and may include extended family members. Ms. Adams left application paperwork as well as brochures with the town clerk.

At this time Mr. Bassin asked if there were any items on the agenda that any members of the board wished to recuse themselves from. There were none at this time.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Clark to approve the minutes on the September 20, 2019 public hearing and the September 20, 2019 regular meeting as read with the following addition to the public hearing minutes: "A letter was read by Councilwoman Hundt from Kelsey Wessel, in support of the library funding. A copy of the letter is on file in the town clerks office." Motion carried.

Supervisors Report

- 1. Financial Report** – Another normal financial month in September. General fund spending through YTD September was about flat to last year. Highway spending YTD through September, 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 September was \$982,000. YE cash projection is \$836,000, up \$7,000 from last month's YE projection of \$829,000 and \$100,000 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), forecasts for better than budgeted 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 \$982,000 in cash on hand is on deposit with TD Bank in their liquid investment account, which currently earns 1.7% and floats with changes in interest rates.
- 2. Comp Plan Review Process** – We held Hamlet Planning Group meetings on 10/13 and will have a CPRC meeting on 10/15. Notes from those meetings will be circulated separately. We are on track to start work on the updated Comp Plan document, which should be available in draft form by our December TB meeting.
- 3. 2019 Preliminary Budget** – We will conduct a public hearing on the Preliminary Budget at 6:45 pm on Thursday, 10/18. Following the public hearing, the Town Board will have opportunity to review and revise the Preliminary Budget before we consider it for adoption. We will have an additional opportunity to modify the 2019 Budget at our November meeting, when we hold the Final Budget Public Hearing and consider the Final Budget for adoption.
- 4. Proposed Resolutions** – We have 11 resolutions to consider on Thursday, including the normal budget resolutions, resolutions to reduce speed limits on CR 8, 8a, 3 and in the center of Ancramdale, and resolutions approving development of a local law to impose weight and/or axle limits on CR 8 and 8a, the NYSERDA \$80,000 grant contract, the 2019 Rescue Squad Budget and the revised discrimination and harassment policy
- 5. Habitat for Humanity** – Brenda Adams, Executive Director of Habitat, will be at our 10/18 meeting to give us an update on where things are with the Ancramdale project.

Mr. Bassin asked the town board members for their thoughts on the Preliminary Budget. Councilwoman Israel spoke about her feelings regarding the funding for the library. She felt that the town has put in a \$14,000 increase for the town camp and pool and that they should also fund an additional \$10,000 for the library which also benefits the town.

Councilman Boice expressed once again that he would like to see some repairs done to the town hall building. Mr. Bassin replied that this is included in the capital improvement plan.

Mr. Bassin asked if the town board would like to place the additional \$10,000 in funding into the library fund. Jane Plasman asked why this is even being questioned as it is \$10,000 and the camp and pool is being increased by \$14,000. Mr. Bassin stressed again that the increase in the camp line was because of a budgeting mistake last year that needed to be rectified this year and also includes repairs to the pool facility. Mr. Bassin also asked that people not equate the camp and pool fund with the library as they are separate issues. Councilwoman Israel felt that library touches more people than the camp and the pool. Councilman Boice pointed out that the library is the only budgeted item that has a 414 referendum option. He mentioned again that in 2013 and 2014 a majority of voters voted against the \$35,000 proposed in the 414 referendum. Mr. Boice suggested taking FAC member Peter Scola's suggestion which was to put the additional \$10,000 in the budget for one year and ask that the library put forth another 414 in the next election cycle. Councilman Clark stressed that the board is not against the library. He felt that the 414 is a sticking point because in the recent past the majority of the voters in the population of the town had spoken up to say no to the funding. He also said that he understands Mr. Scola's recommendation, but that the town cannot force the library to go through another 414.

Councilwoman Hundt asked if the health insurance is increasing. Mr. Bassin said that it is looking like a 6% increase and that he will be sitting down with the highway department employees to go over everything.

The following resolution was offered by Councilwoman Hundt and seconded by Councilman Boice and moved by a roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #18 of 2018: 2019 Preliminary Budget - Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board approves the 2019 Preliminary Budget for the Town of Ancram with a total tax levy of \$760,616, which represents a tax decrease of .99%, or \$7,616. Be it further resolved that the Ancram Town Board will consider modifications to the 2019 Preliminary Budget based on a continued review of actual 2018 results, the availability of more accurate 2019 health insurance and retirement cost information and additional public input from a public hearing on the Final 2019 Town Budget

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt. Resolution carried.

Resolution #19 of 2018: Final Budget Public Hearing – Resolved, that a public hearing to secure public comments on the 2019 Final Budget will be held at 6.45 pm on November 15.

Town Board Comments

Councilman Boice read a letter from Mr. Frank Martucci asking the board to consider lowering the speed limits on County Route 8 and 8A due to heavy truck traffic and speeders. The letter is on file in the town clerks office.

Councilman Boice read a letter from Mr. Dan Slott asking the board to consider lowering the speed limit to 35 mph between where Roche road meets County Route 3 into the hamlet of Ancramdale where 3 meets 8. The letter is on file in the town clerks office.

Mr. Bassin asked Mr. Miller what the State allowed the town to reduce the speed limit to on Sawchuck road. Mr. Miller said 40 mph.

Mr. Jim Stickle asked if there were any accidents on either one of these roads. Mr. Stickle asked why consider lowering in these spots and not in the intersections. Mr. Fred Schneegburger suggested that for the farm on county route three, why not drop the speed limit from Overmountain road to Hendersons. Mr. Rick Dubray said that he believed that the residents of the road do not like the heavy trucks and would like them rerouted. Councilman Boice said that the hamlet has to get a reputation of giving tickets. Councilman Clark reported that the #1 concern in all of the hamlet planning group meetings were speeders and traffic. It was suggested that instead of making the speed limit along County Route 3 go from 35 mph in the hamlet to 55 back down to 35 and then to 55 again past Hendersons, the town would request to change the speed on County Route 3 at the end of the 35 mph section coming out of Ancramdale to 45 mph past the Mill Farm, and then to 55 at Henderson's.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt. Resolution carried.

Resolution #20 of 2018: Revised and Adopted - Speed limit Reduction on CR 3 to 45 -
Whereas, a resident living on CR 3 has complained that the posted 55 mph speed limit on this road is too high for safe travel and poses a threat to public safety, bikers, pedestrians and agricultural vehicles, and **whereas** slow moving agricultural vehicles use this road throughout the year, and **whereas** large trucks use this roads as a shortcut from SR 22 to SR 82,

and **whereas** sections of CR 3 contain sharp curves and limited sight distances, therefore it is **Resolved** that the Town Highway Superintendent and Town Supervisor submit a request to the County Traffic Safety Board and the County Highway Department to lower the speed limit from 55 mph to 45 mph on Cr 3 from 346 CR 3 to past Overmountain Rd to where the 35 mph speed limit is posted as you enter Ancramdale.

Supervisor Bassin asked the town board's thoughts on reducing the speed limit in the hamlet of Ancramdale to 25mph from 35 mph. Councilwoman Hundt suggested that for now the town should enforce the 35mph limit and see if that makes a difference.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bassin and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to table proposed Resolution #9 in the packet to lower the speed limit in the center of Ancramdale to 25 mph. Motion carried.

Mr. Bassin asked for the board's feelings and public comment on weight limits and axle limits. Mr. Stickle felt that it is not needed, that it is an added expense for the divers in gas who already pay an added millage tax. Mr. Bassin asked if it would make a difference if local delivery was excluded. It did not change the opinion. Mr. Bassin said he had circulated a study on accidents involving large trucks and the study had found that large trucks are safer and tend to have less accidents than passenger trucks.

A motion was made by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to table proposed Resolution #3 regarding weight and axle limits in the packet. Motion carried.

Highway

Mr. Miller reported that the department is in the process of getting ready for the winter months.

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

Resolution #21 of 2018: County Snow Plow Contract – Resolved, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to enter into a renewal agreement with the County of Columbia to use Town resources to plow County Routes 8 and 8a under terms and conditions which are substantially the same and the current snow plowing agreement between the County and the town of Ancram.

The following resolution was offered by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt and moved for adoption. Resolution carried unanimously. **Resolution #22 of 2018:** Radar Speed Sign Installation Permits – Resolved, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to apply to the NYS Department of Transportation and the County Highway Department for installation permits for radar speed signs on State and County roads in the Town of Ancram.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved for adoption. Resolution carried unanimously. **Resolution #23 of 2018:** Discrimination and Harassment Policy – Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board approves the revised Harassment Policy which conforms to revised NY State Law, and authorizes the Town Supervisor to schedule training for all Town employees on this new Harassment Policy to be completed within a 90 day period, and it is further resolved that additional training on the new Harassment Policy will be scheduled periodically for new employees and for summer employees.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt and moved for adoption. Resolution carried unanimously. **Resolution #24 of 2018:** Rescue Squad Budget – Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board approves the proposed 2019 Community Rescue Squad charge to the Town of Ancram of \$101,514, which represents an increase of 1.03% or \$1,038, and authorizes the Town Supervisor to approve a County Chargeback Agreement authorizing the County Treasurer to pay \$101,514 to the Community Rescue Squad on behalf of the Town of Ancram and charge back Ancram taxpayers through the County property tax.

The following resolution was offered by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Clark and moved for adoption. Resolution carried unanimously. **Resolution #25 of 2018:** County Youth Bureau Contract – Resolved, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to enter into an agreement with the County of Columbia Youth Bureau to secure grant funding of approximately \$1000 for the Ancram Kids Camp and Pool Programs.

The following resolution was offered by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt and moved for adoption. Resolution carried unanimously. **Resolution #26 of 2018:** NYSERDA Grant Contract – Resolved, that the Town Supervisor and/or the Chair of the Climate Smart Community Task Force are authorized to enter into an agreement with NYSERDA to secure \$80,000 of grant funding to implement climate smart efficiency programs in the Town of Ancram.

The following budget adjustments were offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved for adoption. Motions carried.

Highway Fund: From 5110.4 to 5130.4 \$15,000

General Fund: From Fund Balance to 1220.4 \$100.00 and 7310.4 \$1,000.00

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

Town Clerk Monica Cleveland alerted the board to the fact that US postage stamps will be increasing in price to 55 cents at the beginning of 2019. She suggested that the town possibly purchase two years of forever stamps to save money. She will gather more details prior to the next meeting.

Highway Superintendent James Miller gave a thank you to the fire department for their hard work on the Millerhurst barn fire as well as the community for their ongoing support. The family is very grateful.

There being no more business before the board, 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