

3. 2019 Tentative Budget – We will conduct a public hearing on the Tentative Budget at 6:45 on Thursday, 9/20. Following the public hearing, the Town Board will have opportunity to review and revise the Tentative Budget before we adopt it. We will have additional opportunities to modify the 2019 Budget at our October and November meetings, as we review the Preliminary and Final Budgets. I have attached a summary of the Tentative Budget, and a list of “proposed” changes to the Tentative Budget we can consider for inclusion in the Preliminary Budget.

4. NYS Property Tax Related Charitable Reserve Funds – A recent IRS ruling appears to make this program illegal.

5. Speed Limit Enforcement – We expect to get the radar speed signs by the end of the month. We will secure permission to post these signs initially on 82 and 8 coming into Ancramdale. NYS DOT does not seem enthusiastic about either lowering the speed limit on 82 into Ancramdale from 35 to 25, or installing a caution 25 mph sign in that area. We are looking into the possibility of installing a caution 25 mph sign on 8 coming into Ancram, and I have recently had a request to consider cutting the speed limit on 8a and 8 from 55 to 35. The Sheriff’s department reports issuing 12 speeding tickets in August, down from 20 in July.

6. Weight Limits on 8/8a - I will again recommend we approve a resolution to retain an attorney to draft a local law to establish weight limits on 8 and 8a. If we start the local law process now, we would probably be ready to consider the local law for adoption in 90 days, following a public hearing. Because Councilman Boice will not be able to attend our 9/20 meeting, I suggest we defer this discussion and decision until October, when David will be able to participate.

7. Sawchuk Road Septage – Flood’s Sanitation failed to file the necessary paperwork to continue spreading septage on Sawchuk Rd, and was supposed to have stopped spreading septage as of 9/14. The neighbors on Sawchuk Rd are in contact with DEC to see how DEC plans to enforce this situation, and what remediation efforts might have to be done.

8. Houghtaling House – We expect demolition of Houghtaling House to take place by the end of the month.

Mr. Bassin opened the meeting to discussion of the tentative budget and any proposed changes. Councilwoman Hundt felt that there was a lot of support for the Library to receive more funding. Mr. Bassin said that he had received about a dozen letters in favor of an increase and a couple opposing. Ms. Hundt would like to support

the library and drop the audit for another year. She feels there is a case for supporting it.

Councilman Clark said he felt that Mrs. Plasman gave a great presentation and that the comments are well received. He cautioned that 2 defeated 414's cannot be neglected and that in doing so would neglect a part of the population of the town that needs to be heard. He suggested that the board continue to fact find and hear comments and debates. He felt that the board should not put it into the budget at this time. He would like to see the town talk to other audiences.

Mr. Bassin suggested leaving it alone until Councilman Boice returned. A debate among the members ensued about putting it in the preliminary budget, Mr. Clark not wanting to, Ms. Hundt and Mrs. Israel in favor of and Mr. Bassin abstaining. The \$10,000 was concluded to be placed in the preliminary budget.

Mr. Clark said that he felt the budgeted amount for an outside audit should stay in the budget but that Mr. Bassin was going to look at how long ago the last one happened.

Mr. Miller reported that he had received a quote from Colarusso for the reclaiming and repaving of the town hall parking lot. The price comes in at \$118,000.00. Mr. Miller wondered if there was a cheaper option.

The court submitted a letter asking for raises for the judges as they have not received a raise in ten years. Councilwoman Israel stated that she is in favor of raises and that this has come up about Town Board Members as well. Mrs. Wittlinger also stated that the Court Clerks are asking for a raise above what the hourly clerks are paid. This she felt was due to them having to take mandatory training and that they are a more valuable position to the town. She stated that they are worth more than the other clerks. The Court Clerks are asking for \$20 an hour for the Clerk and \$18 an hour for the deputy.

Board Member Comments

Councilwoman Israel asked that the residents comply with the zoning laws which states that election signs cannot be placed on properties prior to 30 days before an election. She feels that people do not know the law exists but that everyone should be adhering to it. A discussion ensued about resident's first amendment rights.

Highway Department

Mr. Miller had prices for Highway Department pickups off of the State Bid List. He suggested that the town purchase a 2018 Dodge ¾ ton pickup with a plow for \$36,897.00

A motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to allow for the purchase of a 2018 Dodge Ram Pickup with plow off of the State of New York Bid List at a cost of \$36,897.00. Motion carried.

Mr. Miller reported that in 2019, the department will be looking to replace the current backhoe. With trade in value, the cost is coming in at \$75,720.00.

Other items reported by the highway department were the demolition of the Houghtaling house, which is slated to come down in October, and the department is readying the roads for winter but there is no price set for salt yet.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt to approve the town board to sign the contract with Columbia County for the snow removal on County Route 8 and 8A for the 2018/2019 winter season. Motion carried.

Court

The court office supplied the town board with a requested list of tickets for the town for the years 2017-2018.

Comprehensive Plan Review

Councilman Clark gave the town board the updates the committee is looking at for Draft 3. These mainly focus on Priority, Strategies and Actions.

Pool

Mr. Bassin read to the board a letter from Mr. Hamm, who worked at the town pool this summer as a lifeguard in the swim lesson section. Mr. Hamm gave great accolades to the program and deemed it one of the best he has worked with.

Historic District

Mr. Bassin reported that in regards to the postcards sent to those in the historic district to vote on the implimentation of the district have come back as follows: 15 in favor, 2 opposed and 1 no answer.

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

Resolution #16 of 2018: 2019 Tentative Budget

Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board adopts the 2019 Tentative Budget for the Town of Ancram with a total tax levy of \$755,703, which represents a tax decrease of \$1.57%, or \$12,016. Be it further resolved that the Ancram Town Board will modify the 2019 Town Budget based on a continued review of actual 2018 results, the availability of expected 2019 health insurance and retirement costs and public input from public hearings on the Preliminary and Final 2019 Town Budgets

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

Resolution #17 of 2018: Preliminary Budget Public Hearing –

Resolved, that a public hearing to secure public comments on the 2019 Preliminary Budget will be held at 6.45 pm on October 18.

The following budget adjustments were offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel. Motion carried.

To: 7020.1 \$8,500; 7310.4 \$1,200; 1220.2 \$688 From : 1220.4 \$688; Fund Balance \$9,700.

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

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland, Ancram Town Clerk