

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Public Hearing 2019 Tentative Budget
September 20, 2018**

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

Supervisor Arthur Bassin called the Public Hearing for the 2019 Tentative Budget to order at 6:45pm.

Mr. Bassin opened the floor to public comment.

Ms. Jane Plasman addressed the board. She prefaced her statement by stating that she has served as a member of the RoeJan Library Board of trustees and is a volunteer for the library.

Ms. Plasman handed out a pamphlet which showed the usage of the RoeJan library by the residents of Ancram. On it was shown that 585 residents of Ancram hold a Mid-Hudson library card and that 548 of those list the RoeJan library as their home library. 198 of those residents have borrowed an article of some means from the library thus far in 2018, a total of 4,196 to date. She also presented the results of a survey done by the library regarding library use. Over the course of 2017, the library held 55 childrens programs with the total number attending at 1201. She stated that as a resident, she would like to see an additional \$10,000 go to the library, bringing the total amount of support to \$17,500 for 2019. She pointed out that Hillsdale gives \$42,000 and Copake \$55,000 (through the 414 referendum on those towns' tax bills). Ms. Plasman indicated another 414 vote for Ancram was likely in 2019 or 2021.

Cathy Redlich stated that she felt that by Ancram not paying more to the library, it feels like Ancram is cheating the system.

Michael Citrin asked the Board why they wouldn't increase the amount to what is being asked. Mr. Bassin responded that the voters had voted no both times to the 414, the amount being \$35,000. Mr. Bassin said that until the next 414 vote, he feels that it may not be appropriate to go against the voters wishes and increase the amount from \$7500.

Michael Citrin asked if the town board feels the library needs to do more? Mr. Bassin said that he felt that the library does a lot. He suggested that the library put another 414 to a vote next year.

It was noted that the library goes beyond the walls of the actual building. One case is the introduction of books and literacy at the WIC programs held at the Copake Falls Catholic Church.

Ms. Alissa Cleveland supported approval for the increase of funding to the library. She stated that it was invaluable to her schooling as a teacher and useful for resources for her classroom.

Mr. Bassin and the board brought up other items proposed for the budget including an outside audit and a correction to the 2017 camp line. The Judges and Town Board members' wages are proposed to be increased by \$500 a year.

Mr. Bassin also said that the Court Clerks are asking for a raise to their hourly salary above what the other clerks in the building are paid.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hundt and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to close the public hearing at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk