

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
February 21, 2019**

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 at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Arthur Bassin with a salute to the flag.

Consolidated Communications spoke to the town board about applying for a franchise agreement with the town. State regulations allow a company to opt in on an existing contract for cable. Consolidated would like to use the same contract as Spectrum. They will first launch over the fiber lines and then expand to the full town over time. At this time residents services by Spectrum are as follows: Ancram 206 of 361, Ancramdale 276 of 357, Boston Corners has not been awarded by the State.

It was asked that if this goes through, how long before it goes live? The answer was very quickly. The proposed franchise agreement will be sent to the town.
A public hearing will be set for prior to the March Town Board meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to approve the 12/20 Town Board Meeting, the 1/3 Year End and Organizational Meeting and the 1/19 Town Board Meeting as read and placed on the record. Motion carried.

Supervisors Report

1. Financial Report – Normal month. Having collected the tax levy in January, we ended the month with about \$1.8 million in cash. We have a budgeted year end 2019 cash fund balance of about \$845,000. With about \$130,000 in the 2019 contingent account budget and \$275,000 of planned capital spending projects that were part of the tax levy budget, we should end 2019 with about \$700,000 in cash on hand. The major risk to the Town’s 2019 financial situation is the financial condition of NY State, which may result in the State reducing or eliminating general and highway aid to towns.

2. OSC Audit – State auditors completed their audit and held exit interviews the first week in February. Their concerns during the exit interview focused primarily on the size and distribution of our fund balance – they would like to see us have less fund balance than the \$800,000 we target, and would like a significant portion of the fund

balance allocated to specific capital reserves and to the highway department. We agreed to disagree. We should get their final written report in 2-3 months.

3. Comp Plan Review Process – The Comp Plan Review Committee held a public hearing on February 9. The Committee concluded that none of the comments that came up during the public hearing require modifications to the Draft Plan as it stands. Written and verbal comments at the public hearing focused on the issue of short term rentals. The Comp Plan Review Committee will present the Updated Comprehensive Plan to the Town Board at the 2/21 Town Board meeting. The Town Board will schedule a public hearing on the Draft Updated Comp Plan, will submit the Plan to the County Planning Board for comment and approval, and will conduct a SEQRA analysis prior to considering the Plan for adoption. Suggest we schedule the Town Board public hearing on the Comp Plan for Saturday, March 9 at 10 am.

4. Cable Franchise Application - We have received an application from Berkshire Cable dba Consolidated Communications for approval to offer cable services in Ancram under the terms offered by Spectrum Communications. We will hold a public hearing on this request immediately prior at the Mach 21 Town Board meeting and will then consider the application for approval.

5. Cemetery Fence – Bob Murphy has recommended that the Town complete the fencing around the cemetery on CR 7 neat Hall Hill Rd. Bob is getting estimates for this work, which will be paid for with money available in our Heritage Resources fund

Mr. Bassin and the town board commented on the NYS Comptrollers Audit and all seemed to feel that the audit went well and that the town is doing well.

Councilman Clark gave an overview on the next steps for the Comprehensive Plan Review. He said that the committee has looked at what has been accomplished from the Comprehensive Plan and what has not. The committee met with core groups and did a survey of the residents. On February 9th the committee held a public hearing. Many of the comments that were addressed were already addressed in the plan. Mr. Clark said that the next step is to set a time and date for the town board public hearing, send a copy to the Columbia County Planning Board and doe a SECRA review. The adoption should take place in the next two to three months.

Councilwoman Hundt said that she had heard many concerns about the Air B&B's. Mr. Clark said that there is a balance and direction for Air B&B's and sort term rentals in the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Bassin said that Mr. Bob Murphy would like to complete the fencing around the Freeground cemetery this year. Bob will bring proposals to the board.

Board Member Comments

Councilman Boice asked if the town has yet put fire alarms in the Town Garage. There has not been although there have been two companies that have come down and looked at the building to install them. Mr. Boice urged that the town have them installed.

Councilwoman Israel announced to the board that she would like to once again nominate Adrienne Citrin, posthumously, as Columbia County Senior Citizen of the Year. The board members agreed.

Councilman Boice commented that Central Hudson has called the firehouse about putting in new energy efficient lights. Mr. Boice stated that Central Hudson has done this twice already at the firehouse within just the past few years and that this seemed like excessive.

Mr. Bassin asked Mr. Boice about capital expenses with the town pool. Mr. Boice said that he would like to sandblast the old layers off the pool walls and fix any cracks and holes in the surface. Mr. Boice will have Mike Boice who has done work on the pool in the past look at it. He will also get the cost of a sandblaster rental.

Mr. Boice said that the Firehouse is having a chicken BBQ on the 23rd of February and a banquet at the Hillsdale Firehouse on March 23rd to which all board members are invited.

Councilwoman Hundt felt that the audit showed that the town is doing well financially.

Councilwoman Israel reported that she would like to apply for the town to the Berkshire Hathaway fund for a grant for \$5,000 for senior care. The thought is that this would allow the town to pay people to help elderly people with small home tasks as well as health related care. The grant would be \$5,000 each year for two years. Councilwoman Israel will explore this further. Councilman Boice also suggested that the town seek out a grant writer that would help the town in writing grants for many town departments.

Councilwoman Israel also asked if the town board thought it was appropriate to name the new gazebo in the town hall recreation area in memory of Adrienne Citrin for her work in acquiring the gazebo and also for all of her dedication to the town through her volunteer work. The town board felt unanimously that this was a fantastic idea. Town Clerk Monica Cleveland will order the plaques.

Councilman Clark stated that in the 2010 Comprehensive plan, there was a lot of need expressed for those in this town to volunteer. The town of Ancram supports and welcomes volunteers to the community. Mr. Clark stated that if there is a clear example of what being a volunteer means, it was shown by the life and example of Adriene Citrin.

At this moment in the meeting, the town board spent a moment in silence to honor the memory and good works of Adriene Citrin, member of our Camp and Pool Board, member of Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Office of the Aging Representative, member of the Roe Jan Library Board and all around giver of her time and energy to the Town of Ancram.

Highway

Mr. Miller reported that the new pickup truck has been received. He has received notice that County Route 3 will be paved this year by the County. June 15th has been set for Town Clean up Day. March 9th the Highway Department will host the County Rabies clinic.

Mr. Miller shared with the board a proposal from Ray (?) to act as the architect manager for the new shed the town highway wishes to build on the town highway property. The proposal states the company will handle the bid specs, the bid reviews and be a site manager. Total fees will be a cost of \$6,000. A motion was made by Councilwoman Hundt and seconded by Councilman Boice to accept the proposal. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Hundt questioned the use of a Town of Ancram Highway truck in the Town of Pine Plains. Mr. Miller will look into it.

Town Clerk

The town clerk gave a report from the clerks office. So far for February, 3 dogs have been registered and 3 recycle permits sold. The Tax Collector report shows that at this time 81% of the total taxes have been collected.

The town clerk gave a brief summary of the classes she will be taking at her 2019 Conference in May.

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

Resolution #14 of 2019: Updated Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing- Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed Updated Comprehensive Plan at 10 am on Saturday, March 9, 2019, and be it further resolved that the Town supervisor will submit the Updated Plan to the County Planning Board for review and approval, and will develop a SEQRA analysis for review and approval by the Ancram Town Board at the March 21 Town Board meeting.

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

Resolution #15 of 2019: Training and Conferences- Resolved, that the Code Enforcement Officer, Town Clerk, Town Highway Superintendent, and all members of the Planning Board, ZBA and ZRC are authorized and encouraged to attend training sessions and

conferences related to their areas of responsibility to maintain certifications, meet legal requirements and keep current on new developments, issues and trends in their fields, and be it further resolved that the Ancram Town Board authorizes reimbursement for program fees, travel, lodging and meals for attending such training sessions and conferences, and be it further resolved that the Chairs of the Planning Board, ZBA and ZRC are encouraged to collaborate on the development and implementation of periodic training programs for Planning Board and ZBA members to be held at the Ancram Town Hall.

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

Resolution #16 of 2019: Cable Franchise Application-Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board will conduct a public hearing on March 21, 2019 at 6:45 pm on an application from Berkshire Cable dba Consolidated Communications to offer cable services in the Town of Ancram on the same terms and conditions as Spectrum Communications.

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

Resolution #17 of 2019: Town Court Annual Audit-Whereas section 2019-a of the Uniform Justice Act requires that town justices annually provide their court records and dockets to their town auditing boards, and whereas the Ancram Town Court presented its records and dockets to the Town of Ancram Financial Advisory Council for audit on February 9, 2019, and whereas the Financial Advisory Council audited Ancram court records and dockets and found them to be in order, therefore, it is Resolved that the Ancram Town Supervisor will notify the Office of Court Administration that this audit was performed and will send a copy of this resolution and the audit documents to the Office of Court Administration.

The following Highway Budget adjustment was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Boice. Budget adjustment carried.

From 5031 to 5130.2 \$38,500

From Fund Balance to 9901.9 \$38,500.

The following General Budget adjustment was offered by Councilwoman Hundt and seconded by Councilwoman Israel. Budget adjustment carried.

From Fund Balance to 8810.4 \$2,000.00

A motion was made by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt to approve the warrant and pay the bills. Motion carried.

A public hearing will be held on March 9th for the Comprehensive Plan Revisions.

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk