

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Public Hearing Tentative Budget 2020
September 19, 2019**

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

The Town Supervisor Arthur Bassin called the public hearing on the 2020 Tentative Budget to order at 6:45 pm.

He asked if there was anything the board would like to address regarding the budget. There were no comments or questions at this time.

Mr. Bassin asked for comments from the floor.

Ms. Hila Richardson asked that if the town continues to cut the budget by 1% each year as they have been, was there an expenditure the town was not making because of it. Mr. Bassin replied that the sales tax revenue has remained strong. And, due to the fact that the fund balance has remained around the \$800,000 mark, the town has not had to cut back and necessary projects.

The question was raised as to if the budget aligns with the comp plan initiatives and completing things the comp plan has set forth. Councilman Clark answered that the issues that the town needs to address are getting completed. The cost of the zoning revisions has been reasonable. Mr. Clark said that there may be other items that may need to be looked at but those issues will be addressed when the subcommittees are formed. Councilwoman Hundt felt that this fed into the capital plan for projects such as the flat screen television (smart tv), downtown Ancram and trees.

Councilwoman Hundt asked if the town should budget to have an engineer come in to look at Porter's Store. Supervisor Bassin stated that the town has discussed this twice now and that there are two options, tear it down at a cost to the town or leave it alone. He felt that when issues come up regarding the safety of the building, once alerted, the owners take care of it in a timely manner. The board has felt in the past that the town taking the building down is not something they wished to do. Councilman Boice felt that the legal cost to take the building down would be more than the town would wish to expend.

Mrs. Jean Brant expressed her thanks to the board for keeping the taxes down. Supervisor Bassin thanked her for her comment and cited that the town is very fortunate to have many volunteers who help out when needed. He is grateful also for the diversity of opinions throughout the town.

There being no more comment, a motion was made by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk