



November meeting. As part of the budget process we will review and update the 5-year Capital Plan and determine how much of a cash reserve we want to maintain for working capital, major capital purchases, “unexpected” revenue shortfalls or emergency spending needs. As in prior years, we will try to develop a budget that lowers taxes by at least 1% while funding our long-term capital spending accounts at the \$130,000 level while adequately budgeting all our departmental operating accounts. The total tax levy in the 2020 Preliminary Budget is \$752,00, down about 1% from 2019. Our 2020 total operating expense budget, excluding capital spending which will be funded from the fund balance, not from the 2020 tax levy, is about \$1.49 million, compared to \$1.45 million in 2019. Here is a quick recap of the 2020 Preliminary Budget:

-Sales tax is budgeted at \$325,000, \$10,000 over the 2020 Tentative Budget, but \$20,000 less than the \$345,000 we expect to receive in 2019.

- Mortgage tax has been cut to \$25,000 from \$35,000 to reflect 2019 expected results.

– Donations have been increased by \$8,000 to \$21,000 to reflect actual 2019 results.

– Kids camp counselors and cost of supplies has been increased by \$10,750 to reflect actual 2019 experience.

– Pool costs have been increased by \$3,750 to cover higher lifeguard salaries and expected equipment repair costs.

– Planning/ZBA Clerk costs have been increased \$3,000 to cover additional project responsibilities (Historic Markers, Census, training coordination, website, Ancramemail)

- Property and liability insurance programs are budgeted up \$1,000 to \$28,500 to reflect the new highway shed and normal price increases. Insurance could increase more if we decide to insure all our major equipment at replacement cost.

- Salaries and related social security are up 2.5%, about \$10,000. Salary increases averaging 2.5% are budgeted for all staff except Supervisor, Town Board and Judges.

- Health insurance is up \$2500 over 2019. CDPHP has requested a 9.8 increase

– 2022 Reassessment – Assessor operating costs have been increased by \$7500 to fund the 2020 portion of the reassessment project that we have asked the county to undertake on our behalf. Total cost over 3 years will be about \$22,500, compared to over \$100,000 if we were to contract with an outside assessment firm.

- Unexpended Balance has increased by \$15,000 over the Tentative Budget and \$25,000 over the 2019 Budget to \$55,000 to reflect estimated 2019 tax levy money that will not be spent in 2019 and is being carried forward to 2020. Highway is \$30,000, and GF is \$25,000.

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

**Resolution #46 of 2019:** Approve Preliminary Budget and Schedule Final Budget Public Hearing - Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board adopts the 2020 Preliminary budget as presented, and it is further Resolved that the Ancram Town Board will hold a public hearing on the 2020 Final Budget at 6.45 pm on November 21, 2019 at the Ancram Town Hall to solicit public comments on the proposed 2020 Final Budget, and it is further Resolved that the Town Clerk will publish a public notice of this public hearing in the Town's papers of record.

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

**Resolution #47 of 2019:** Approve Community Rescue Squad 2020 Budget – Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board approves the proposed 2020 Community Rescue Squad Budget of \$101,547 and authorizes the Town Supervisor to enter into a chargeback agreement with the County of Columbia to pay \$101,547 to the Community Squad in 2020 and to add this amount to the Town of Ancram County tax levy.

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

**Resolution #48 of 2019:** Adopt Road-Stream Crossing Management Plan provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties.

WHEREAS, the Town of Ancram Road-Stream Crossing Management Plan is designed to help improve community and ecosystem resiliency by identifying high priority road-stream crossings to improve community flood resiliency, road infrastructure condition and reconnect high quality aquatic habitat within the Town of Ancram, and

WHEREAS, the scope of the Management Plan included an inventory of all state, county, town and private road stream crossing, aquatic passage and hydraulic modeling of the data, prioritization of results using multiple objectives and resources for funding and road-stream crossing right-size design, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ancram will use this Plan to help develop long-term road maintenance plans, guide highway standards for new roads and driveways and provide a resource for the Highway Superintendent and personnel to identify and prioritize future replacement projects and annual budgets;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Ancram Town Board adopts the Road-Stream Crossing Management Plan provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties.

Colleen Lutz thanked the board for passing the resolution on Road-Stream crossing. She reported that the town begun work on the culvert study in 2013.

### **Comp Plan**

Councilman Clark announced that an implimentation meeting will be held on November 2, 2019 at 9:30am. The ZRC held their first meeting on October 7, 2019. They reviewed their charge to be accomplished. The next meeting will be October 21, 2019.

### **Board Member Comments**

Councilwoman Hundt announced that there will be another meeting on affordable housing coming up that she is going to try and attend.

Councilman Boice noted that there were more streetlights that have been changed to LED's in Ancram and that they do not seem obtrusive. Councilman Clark asked if Mr. Boice knew the size of the bulbs. Mr. Boice did not.

Councilwoman Israel reported that she has ordered four more gatepost signs and that she would like to have them up before the ground freezes.

Councilwoman Israel at this time noted that she was concerned that election materials that had been sent out by a county candidate included an endorsement that gave the appearance that the town board of Ancram supports this candidate. Councilman Clark asked how this was town buisness. Mrs. Israel stated that the person supporting this candidate is the town supervisor. She noted that this was on election material printed by Mr. Czajka and it listed Mr. Bassin as the Town of Ancram supervisor in support of his candiacy. Mr. Bassin did not feel that this was inappropriate and that if he was supporting the democratic candidate, this would not be an issue. Mrs. Israel stated that it would be an issue either way. Councilwoman Hundt felt that while Mr. Bassin is free to support any candidate he wishes, it can have the appearance that he is speaking for the entire town board. She felt that the Town Supervisor and all town board members should appear to stay neutral. Mr. Bassin felt that he should be able to

support who he wishes and that he votes for the candidate he feels will do the best in that given position. Mr. Jim Miller felt that Mr. Bassin has a right to freedom of speech. Mr. Clark felt that this was not an issue that is covered by municipal town law rule and that it should not be deliberated on at a town board meeting. Councilwoman Hundt said that the only way for all to speak about this as a group is in a town board meeting because it is illegal for them to congregate together and could be considered a quorum if more than two of them discuss an issue. Mr. Boice brought up that the email system of communications seems to him a thin line and that it does seem like the town board is having small meetings. Councilman Clark stated that email that only conveys information does not constitute a meeting, but that serial emails that amount to discussion or deliberation are likely to violate the OML. Mr. Bassin said that in regards to him supporting a candidate with his title, that is his right to express his opinion. Mrs. Israel felt that while Mr. Bassin is entitled to his opinion, he should use caution when attaching his supervisors title to it. Ms. Hundt strongly urged staying natural in a public way.

Councilwoman Israel attended a webinar on large scale solar. She said what she took away was that there is no great way to dispose of the panels.

### **Highway Department**

The Highway Supervisor gave the following report of activities:

Assisting other towns paving projects

Did shimming of ruts and shoulders on Hall Hill Rd using 15 loads of blacktop  
Roadside mowing ongoing

Blowing leaves keeping ditches and culverts clear

New Building nearly complete waiting for Central Hudson to hook up electric and door installation

Other business

Approval to order new truck for fall 2020 delivery

Consider a new boom mower have price of \$31k from Keil equipment

A motion was made by Supervisor Bassin and seconded by Councilman Clark to approve the ordering of a new 2020 Highway 10 wheel dump truck at \$210,000 on state bid. Motion carried.

In the last storm there were 18 roads with trees down.

Mr. Miller reported that in the middle of the last storm, he was attempting to get around a downed tree and while backing around in the rain, backed into another tree with the taillight of the pickup truck. The taillight got broke. He will have the truck looked at.

### **Town Clerk**

The town clerk explained to the board that the state has decided to allow for active military persons to obtain a marriage license in NYS without having to pay the NYS fees. She asked that the town forgo the town fee of \$7.50 as well. This would mean that any active service men or women who applied for a marriage license in Ancram would get a completely free license. Mrs. Cleveland noted that most all clerks are asking their boards for the same accomidation.

A motion was made by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to allow the town clerk to wave the Town of Ancram marriage license fee for active service men or women who apply. Motion carried.

The town supervisor noted that the Ancramdale Historic District has been approved by the State of New York.

The town continues with giving harrassment training.

A motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Boice to approve the following budget adjustment. Motion carried.

To 7310.1 (Pool) \$3,000, 7020.4 (Camp) \$1,500.00 From Fund Balance \$4,500.00

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

A motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Boice to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland  
Ancram Town Clerk