

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
December 19, 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 7:00pm by Supervisor Arthur Bassin with a salute to the flag.

Mr. Bassin asked if there were any items on the agenda that any member needed to recuse themselves from. There were none.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt to approve the minutes as read and have them placed on the record. Motion carried.

Supervisors Report

1. November Financial Report – November was another normal month, No surprises. We ended the month with \$781,000 in cash. Year-end 2019 cash projection is \$792,000, about the same as last month's estimate. We expect to receive \$92,000 in CHIPS revenue this week, and about \$90,000 of 4Q sales tax revenue in January or early February. We received our \$6500 AIM payment from the state last week.
2. Swearing in – We will meet on January 2, 2020 at 4.30 to swear in the newly elected town officials. Town Judge Cathy Redlich will conduct the swearing in ceremony.
3. Organizational Meeting – We will meet at 4.45 on January 2, 2020 to hold the 2020 Organizational Meeting.
4. Policy Document Reviews – We will spend time at the 12/19 meeting reviewing the following documents which we will consider for approval at either the Organizational Meeting or the January Board meeting:
 - Financial Process Manual
 - Purchasing Policy
 - Fee schedule
 - Employee handbook
 - Revised Harassment and Violence policies
 - Town Hall Directory

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

Resolution # 53 of 2019: Speed limit Reduction on CR 3 to 45 - Whereas, a resident living on CR 3 has complained that the posted 55 mph speed limit on this road is too high for safe travel and poses a threat to public safety, bikers, pedestrians and agricultural vehicles, and whereas slow moving agricultural vehicles use this road throughout the year, and whereas large trucks use this roads as a shortcut from SR 22 to SR 82, and whereas sections of CR 3 contain sharp curves and limited sight distances, therefore it is Resolved that the Town Highway Superintendent submit a request to the County Traffic Safety Board and the County Highway Department to lower the speed limit from 55 mph to 45 mph from 346 CR 3 to past Overmountain Rd to where the 35 mph speed limit is posted as you enter Ancramdale.

Mr. Bassin reported that the court books are ready for audit and will be presented at the February town board meeting.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hundt and seconded by Councilman Boice to allow the Ancram Town Court to apply for a records management grant with the Court Office of Administration. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Boice to allow the Ancram Town Court to apply for a capital improvement grant with the Court Office of Administration. Motion carried.

Supervisor Bassin introduced the Real Property revaluation resolution. Mr. Clark had a few concerns with the contract but felt that it has successfully been used with five other towns. There are small items in the contract that can be ironed out Mr. Bassin felt.

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

Resolution #54 of 2019: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING TOWN ASSESSOR IN UPDATING OF 2022 ASSESSMENT ROLL - WHEREAS, the Ancram Town Board supports the efforts of its Town Assessor, Rene DeLeeuw, in updating of the Town's 2022 Assessment Roll and maintenance of such Assessment Roll at full-market value, and WHEREAS, the Town Board supports the allocation of sufficient resources for Town staff and services to complete the project, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ancram Town Board hereby expresses its support of its Town Assessor, Rene DeLeeuw, in updating of the Town's 2022 Assessment Roll and maintenance of such Assessment Roll at full-market value, and authorizes the allocation of sufficient resources for Town staff and services to complete such project, and BE IT FURTHER, RESOLVED, that the Town Board further requests that the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services and the Columbia County Real Property Tax Service Agency provide assistance that is typically afforded during such projects to the Ancram Town Assessor, and BE

IT FURTHER, RESOLVED, that the Town Board further authorizes and directs the Town Assessor to send a certified copy of this Resolution to the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services and the Columbia County Real Property Tax Service Agency and authorizes and directs the Town Supervisor, Town Assessor and/or Town Clerk to take such other and further actions as may be necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

Board Member Comments

Councilwoman Hundt gave an update on the LUCA program. She reported that three of the appealed addresses have been approved and that there are a total of 48 new addresses added to the town.

Councilwoman Hundt reported that she attended an affordable housing meeting and that the group met at the Ancramdale Habitat house. She stated that she will be attending another affordable housing meeting on January 9th.

Councilwoman Israel reported that several of the Town of Ancram gateway signs have been set in place. Unfortunately the sign on County Route 7 will be removed for the winter months because of a concerned citizen feeling they could not see properly around it to exit their driveway.

Councilwoman Israel reported that Jane Shannon is very busy at the moment and unable to be involved with the brochure update project. Councilwoman Hundt suggested asking John Hoffman and gave him great praise in having worked with him.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Miller reported that the department has been busy with a total of 11 weather events. This has included 40 hours of overtime. Councilman Boice felt that the town needed to be plowing the roads more and that 40 hours of overtime was not enough given the storms. Mr. Miller reported that the town received \$96,000 in CHIPS money. The new building is completed.

Mr. Miller reported that the town had received three bids for road materials. The bids were opened as advertised in the paper the prior day. Mr. Miller asked that the board accept all three bids due to the fact that there are times one company runs low on a certain material, this gives the town the opportunity to purchase at a second or third location. Mr. Miller also stated that the County Bids for road materials are not out yet.

A motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to accept all three bids received for Highway Road Materials for 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Boice had several questions for the highway department. He asked why the board had not been told that one of the radar signs had been hit? He stated that the sign had been damaged and that the signs should have been taken in prior to the storm. Mr. Boice noted that the new white pickup truck had been damaged and that there was a significant bill for this repair in the warrant packet. Mr. Bassin said that the town had already received a check from the insurance company to cover the repair minus the deductible. Mr. Boice noted that the red pickup truck that the town board had been told needed to be replaced was still on the highway and that at this point there are more trucks than men working for the town. Mr. Boice questioned why a town highway employee was seen plowing a driveway on Route 27 in Copake. Mr. Boice felt that there were too many issues in the Highway Department that the Town Board is unaware of. He would like to see a breakdown of the routes Mr. Miller stated that the town tracks this by the amount of times the trucks are filled up with product. Mr. Boice would like to see the roads plowed more often and for later in the evening. Mr. Boice questioned why a neighbor is allowed to park their tractor and truck on town property. Councilwoman Hundt asked if Mr. Ayala was a full time employee. Mr. Miller answered that he was only part time and only drives the smaller trucks because he does not have his CDL. Councilwoman Hundt asked about the condition of the red pickup truck. Mr. Miller answered that it was not reliable.

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk reported that the taxes will be going out at the end of the month.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Clark to approve the following budget adjustments. Motion carried.

General Fund: From 1420.4 To 1355.12 \$1,000; From 1620.4 To 1320.41 \$1,000; From \$1,000 To 8010.14 \$1,000

Highway Fund: From 5110.4 \$17,000 to 5130.4 \$6,000; 5142.4 \$6,000; 5110.1 \$5,000

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Clark to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm. Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted by,
Monica R. Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk