

**Town of Ancram  
Town Board  
Regular Meeting  
February 20, 2020**

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

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The regular meeting of the Ancram Town Board was called to order at 7:00 by Supervisor Arthur Bassin with a salute to the flag.

Court Clerk Ruth Wittlinger gave a report on the activities of the Court for the 2019 year. She stated that the court office has been working well. At this time there are two judges and two clerks. The town board looked over the court report. Mr. Bassin told the board that the FAC will be auditing the court books.

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

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

**Resolution #11 of 2020: Town Policies and Procedures-** RESOLVED: that the following policy and process documents are approved as presented: 1) 2020 Purchasing Policy 2) 2020 Employee Handbook.

A motion was made by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to approve the minutes of December 19<sup>th</sup> 2019, January 2, 2020 and January 16, 2020 and placed on the record. Motion carried.

**Supervisors Report:**

**1. January Report** – January numbers were as expected. We received our \$752,000 in 2020 property tax money before month-end so we ended January with about \$1.7 million in the bank. We got our 4Q sales tax money in early February. It was about \$7,000 less than we expected at \$82,000, caused apparently by the State deducting the Town AIM payments from the County sales tax share. Do not yet have final December financial reports, but they should be available next week.

**2. CSCTF Initiatives**

1) **Geothermal HVAC system** at Town Hall – CPL Engineering has given us a \$3,500 proposal to do an analysis of the costs and benefits of geothermal compared to a new conventional system. FAC has reviewed that proposal and recommends we accept it as the next step in this process. If we decide to go geothermal, we will have to put the project out to bid, as the cost is likely to come in at around \$115,000. We plan to use the \$70,000 remaining of our NYSERDA grant to partially fund a geothermal system, which will make the net cost to the town of geothermal about \$45,000, which is the approximate cost of a conventional system.

2) **Converting to LED streetlights** – A letter has gone out to all members of the lighting district, and an email has been sent to the Ancramemail list advising everyone of this project and that we will be holding a public hearing on 3/14 at 10 am. Central Hudson's proposal will cost of about \$3,800 and save about \$2,200 annually. We have gotten one complaint from a resident in the center of Ancram about the brightness of the LEDs that have been installed in the center of Town as replacements.

3) **Lime Energy's proposal** to replace the lights at Town Hall and the Town Garage with LEDs – We are still waiting for answers to some questions CSCTF had about the level of lumens being proposed. If the proposal is accepted as is, the cost for Town Hall would be \$6,900, with an annual savings of \$2,600 per year, and the cost at the Garage would be \$3,600, with a savings of \$3,300 per year.

3) **LL #1 of 2020** – We will conduct a public hearing on Local Law #1 (SCOZ) at 6.30, evaluate the SEQRA for this local law, and consider a resolution with a negative SEQRA declaration. We will consider LL #1 for adoption in March after getting feedback from the Town and County Planning Boards, and after the public hearing.

4) **2019 Audits** – FAC audited the Building Department last week, and will conduct 2019 audits on the Court, the Planning & ZBA departments, the Town Clerk/Tax Collector and the Town Supervisor over the next 60 days.

#### **Board Member Comments:**

Councilwoman Hundt gave a report on the library geothermal system. She reported that the library had worked with NYSERTA and that their savings by having a geothermal system were large.

Mr. Bassin reported that the town board will hold a Public Hearing on March 14, 2020 at 10:00am for the Special Light District LED conversion.

Ginocchico Electric has proposed changing out the light fixtures at the town garage per the LIME Energy Proposal for \$125 a fixture with an additional \$100 to install each. A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Boice to contract with Ginocchio Electric to change out the fixtures at the Town Garage for \$125 a fixture with a \$100 installation fee per light. Motion carried.

Mr. Bassin was contacted by email by Adam Duncan of Woods Drive, requesting that the town reduce the speed limit on Woods Drive in Ancramdale from 55mph to 35mph. Mr. Bassin suggested that while the town waits for the State to process the request, the town place yellow caution 35mph signs on the road. Councilman Clark stated that while he has no issue with the yellow signs, he suggested that other residents of the road be asked if the reduction is necessary. Mr. Clark was concerned about changing speed limits with only one complaint. Mr. Bassin noted that most of the reductions were with only one complaint.

Mr. Bassin asked the town board members about their thoughts on becoming a purple heart town. Mr. Clark asked what happens once the town is designated. Mr. Bassin said that it was not clear. The Town Board decided to table this for now.

Mr. Bassin announced that the town Animal Control Officer Wes Powell was retiring at the end of March. Mr. Bassin said that the Dog Warden from Pine Plains was interested. An ad will be placed for applicants.

The town board had discussed appointing a facilities coordinator for the town hall. This person would oversee projects such as the geothermal installation, LED lights, roof etc. Mr. Bassin said that he had spoken to Ray Jurkowski, the engineer who had been involved with the new town garage building, about assigning a junior engineer to the town. Mr. Bassin will get a proposal.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt and moved for adoption by roll call vote. All members voted yes. Resolution carried.

**Resolution #12 of 2020: Local Law #1 of 2020 SEQRA- Negative Declaration- Type 1 Action-**

WHEREAS:

1. The Town Board adopted Local Law #1 in 2003 to establish a Scenic Corridor Overlay District for the Town of Ancram.
2. The Town Board subsequently adopted a comprehensive update to the Town of Ancram Zoning Ordinance by resolution as a Local Law in November 2014 (Zoning Law).
3. The 2014 Zoning Law included establishment and definition of a zoning district called the Scenic Corridor Overlay Zone, which was previously established by such Local Law# 1 of 2003.
4. The Town now desires to amend Article V of the Town of Ancram Zoning Law. This amendment will: (a) essentially transfer from Local Law No. 1 of 2003 to Article V of the Zoning Law the supplementary regulations for the Town's Scenic Corridor Overlay District; and (b) upon such transfer and amendment of Zoning Law Article V, Local Law No. 1 of 2003 will then be repealed.
5. The purpose of the amendment proposed is to incorporate into the Town's Zoning Law adopted on November 20, 2014 the provisions of Local Law No. 1 of 2003 which established supplementary regulations for a zoning district called the Scenic Corridor Overlay Zone ("SCOZ"). Those supplementary regulations were not incorporated into the Town's Zoning Law when it was adopted in 2014. The Town Board now wishes to incorporate those regulations into the Zoning Law. The addition of those supplementary regulations to the Town's Zoning Law will make the scope of the 2014 Zoning Law more complete and will serve the ease and convenience of our citizens and others reading our Zoning Law by making the SCOZ supplementary regulations easier to find and will improve their context by melding them with the body of the Zoning Law.
6. Once the provisions of Local Law No. 1 of 2003 are transferred to Article V of the 2014 Zoning Law, there will no longer be a need for Local Law No. 1 of 2003 and so it will be repealed.
7. This proposed amendment makes no substantive changes to the content of the supplementary regulations which apply to the Town's SCOZ. The only changes that have been made to the SCOZ supplementary regulations as they are presently set forth in Local Law No. 1 of 2003 are the format and

section numbering changes that are necessary to meld those regulations with format and numbering system in Article V of the 2014 Zoning Law.

8. The Town Board has declared themselves lead agency for this action, classified it as a Type I action [New York State Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), Article 8; 6 New York Code of Rules & Regulations (NYCRR), Part 617.4(b)(2)], and accepted and reviewed Part I of the Full Environmental Assessment Form.

9. The Town Board has further evaluated and discussed Part II of the Full Environmental Assessment Form and taken a hard look at potential adverse environmental impacts that may result from this action.

10. In taking such a hard look, the Board did not identify any moderate to large potential impacts that could result from adoption of this zoning amendment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Town of Ancram Town Board hereby declares that adoption of the amendment to the Town of Ancram Zoning Law described herein, will not have any significant negative environmental impacts.

2. Pursuant to SEQRA, the Town Board hereby authorizes preparation and filing of a Negative Declaration (Part 3 of the FEAF), and file a negative declaration notice in the Environmental Notice Bulletin according to SEQRA, 6NYCRR Part 617.

3. The Town Supervisor is authorized to execute the Full Environmental Assessment Form.

The Town Clerk is further instructed to file such Negative Declaration pursuant to page 2 of the Negative Declaration (Part 3).

Councilman Hugh Clark noted that as a town, we value our volunteers. Mr. Clark asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Jack Seiber who recently passed away. Mr. Seiber was a valued member of the Board of Assessment Review and the Financial Advisory Council. The town mourns and will always remember Mr. Seiber fondly.

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

**Resolution #13 of 2020: Town Hall Geothermal Analysis-** Resolved, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to accept a \$3,500 proposal from CPL Engineering to evaluate the Town Hall HVAC system and estimate the cost, financial and environmental benefits of installing a geothermal system or a new conventional to replace the existing Town Hall HVAC system.

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

**Resolution #14 of 2020: County Highway Shared Services Agreement**-Resolved, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to enter into a shared services agreement on behalf of the Town of Ancram with the Columbia County Highway Department, the City of Hudson and all towns and villages in the County to allow the County, the City of Hudson and all towns and villages to support each other's highway maintenance activities.

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

**Resolution #15 of 2020: CEO Annual Training** – Resolved, that the Code Enforcement Officer is authorized to attend the 2020 annual NYS Code Enforcement Officer training program from March 2 to March 5 at a cost of approximately \$1000.

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

**Resolution #16 of 2020: Reduction of Woods Drive Speed Limit to 35mph** - Whereas, a resident living on Woods Drive has complained that the un-posted 55 mph speed limit on Woods Drive is too high for safe travel and poses a threat to public safety, pedestrians and agricultural vehicles, and whereas slow moving agricultural vehicles use this road throughout the year, 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 on Woods Drive from an un-posted 55 mph to 35 mph.

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

**Resolution #17 of 2020: LED Street Light Public**-Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board will conduct a public hearing on Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 10 am at the Ancram Town Hall to solicit public comments on the proposed conversion of all town street lights to LED streetlights, and it is further resolved that the Town Clerk will publish a public notice about this public hearing in the town's publications.

Councilwoman Hundt had a census follow up email questioning about destroying all paperwork. Ms. Hundt said that this had been done.

Councilwoman Hundt asked about the progress of the demo of Porters Store. Mr. Bassin answered that the owners had gotten a demolition permit. They have acquired estimates. The process is moving forward.

Councilwoman Israel reported that she is working with John Hoffman on the updating of town brochures and forms.

#### **Highway Department**

Mr. Miller reported that the department is doing tree work. The department has been having some bucket truck issues.

**Town Clerk**

The Town Clerk gave a report on items that have been done at the building. The court has had the security system moved as well as two black cabinets. A desk was assembled for the second court clerk, two outlets installed and a phone line added. The wall molding has also been fixed in that office. The court is in the process of being painted. The back storage room has been cleaned out.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bassin and seconded by Councilman Boice to allow the town clerk to attend the NYSTCA conference in April. Motion carried.

A motion was made by councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to approve the warrants and pay the bills. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to hold a special town board meeting on March 12, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Ancram Town Board. Motion carried.

Two motions were made by Councilman Clark. First, Councilman Clark moved that the town Board enter into Executive Session to discuss matters relating to the appointment or discipline of particular persons. Second, Councilman Clark moved that the Town Board authorize that the Highway Superintendent and Town Clerk attend the executive session. Both motions were seconded by Councilwoman Hundt and carried unanimously.

**Executive Session**

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland  
Ancram Town Clerk