

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Special Meeting
March 12, 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

The special meeting of the Ancram Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Arthur Bassin at 6:50 pm with a salute to the flag.

Mr. Bassin introduced Richard Prentice Jr., Dog Control Officer applicant. Mr. Prentice told the town board members that he is currently the Dog Control Officer for the Town of Pine Plains and the Town of Northeast. Mr. Prentice spoke about his training. He has a relationship with the Pine Plains Vet Office to take dogs that have been seized. Councilwoman Hundt asked if Mr. Prentice was also an Animal Control Officer. Mr. Prentice said that this is another class that he is in the process of taking. He expects that the test will be available in the fall and he plans to take it. Mr. Prentice said that he has all of the supplies that he needs to do the job already and will have citation slips and brochures printed if he is appointed to the position. In regards to a dog enumeration, Mr. Prentice said that he has used a group in the past that does the enumeration. He has been satisfied with them and would be willing to do this for the Town of Ancram.

Following the interview, the town board decided that they were happy with the interview and would like to appoint Mr. Prentice to the position. This will happen at the regular town board meeting.

There was a second applicant, but the application was sent in after the March 6, 2020 due date.

Highway Report

Mr. Miller gave the highway report because he expects to be out of town when the regular meeting convenes. Mr. Miller said the snow removal budget is in good shape. The Boom Mower was sold at auction and came in at a price of \$5900.00. The department is working on grading roads and trimming trees. Councilman Boice also noted that Mr. Miller assisted the Fire Department with pulling a fire truck out of the mud at a recent brush fire.

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

Resolution # 18 of 2020: 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 several 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 on CR 3 from 55 mph to 45 mph from SR 22 to where the 35 mph speed limit is posted as you enter Ancramdale

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

Resolution #19 of 2020 Standard Workday for Animal Control Officer and Dog Control

Officer Resolved, that the standard workday for the Town of Ancram Animal Control Officer and Dog Control Officer is 7 hours, and it is further resolved that the Town Clerk is authorized to report these standard hours to the NYS Retirement System in the required Standard Workday Resolution for Employees RS 2418 format after this resolution has been posted in the Town Hall and on the Town website for 30 days.

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

Resolution #20 of 2020 Resolution opposing the proposed 30-Day Amendment to the State Budget that eliminates local control over large scale solar and wind projects:

Whereas, the NYS Constitution and Municipal Home Rule Law grant local autonomy to municipalities, particularly with respect to local land use regulation, and;

Whereas, the Town of Ancram adopted a Comprehensive Plan in 2010, enacted revised zoning regulations consistent therewith in 2014 and recently updated the Plan again in 2019, and;

Whereas, Ancram's Comprehensive Plan (previous and updated versions) acknowledge the importance of agriculture, open space, and the environment to the economy and the character of the Town, and declared the support and preservation of agricultural lands to be critical to preserving the rural life-style of Ancram and;

Whereas, Ancram passed both wind and solar laws to allow for such facilities in a manner and scale consistent with the environmental, agricultural, and community character values of our community, and:

Whereas the Town initiated use of the New York State Unified Solar Permit to encourage individual and small-scale use of solar panels, and placed solar panels at Town Hall, and;

Whereas in developing its updated 2019 Comprehensive Plan, the residents of the Town of Ancram identified large scale solar facilities as a threat to the other values important to our community, and;

Whereas our updated 2019 Comprehensive Plan established the policy to continue to allow solar and wind projects for agricultural, residential and small business use, as well as appropriately scaled solar and wind projects that generate electricity for the Ancram community, and;

Whereas our 2019 Comprehensive Plan establishes the desire of the Town of Ancram to exclude “large scale commercial wind and solar operations that export electricity outside the town as these are considered inconsistent with the rural character of the community” and;

Whereas a proposed 30-day amendment to the 2020 New York State budget, entitled TED Part JJJ, would create a new State Agency, the Office of Renewable Energy Siting, that would eliminate or substantially restrict the Town of Ancram’s ability to regulate renewable energy projects, and;

Whereas, the proposed amendment significantly diminishes the role of public input in the siting process, and;

Whereas, the proposed amendment significantly diminishes any role for the Department of Agriculture and Markets and significantly diminishes the important role farmland has in our state, and;

Whereas, the proposed amendment was introduced in a manner that effectively precludes municipalities from analyzing and commenting upon it, and;

Whereas, the Town of Ancram objects to the establishment of major State policy initiatives through the State budget process;

Now, therefore:

Be it resolved that the Ancram Town Board opposes the proposed budget amendment and any attempts to diminish Ancram’s authority to establish and enforce its land use regulations.

The following motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Boice. Based upon information communicated in an attorney-client relationship, I move that the Town Board enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the potential discipline of particular persons. Motion carried.

Mr. Bassin excused the Town Clerk and he Highway Superintendent from the executive session.
Executive session.

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland

Ancram Town Clerk