

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Public Hearing Light District
March , 2020**

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

Supervisor Bassin called the Public Hearing to order at 10:00am.

Mr. Bassin stated that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to discuss changing the street lights to LED lights. Mr. Bassin said that the new lights would be environmentally and economically better. At this time the street lights cost approximately \$7,000 a year to run. Mr. Bassin said that the estimate to change out the lights will cost around \$3,500 and ¼ of this will be a town expense the remainder a light district expense. The light district will pay the town back over time with the savings the new lights will provide. The town has been told that there will be a \$2,200 savings a year to the district with the new lights. Around year three the light district should only be paying \$1500 to \$1700 a year for the lights. They will be dark sky compliant and 3000 Calvins.

Mr. Bassin opened the floor to comments.

The question was asked if there would be any additional costs to tax payers. Mr. Bassin said there would not be and there will be a reduction of costs in the future.

Mr. Phil DeJan asked if there were any proposed designs. Susan Flamm of the Climate Smart Task Force showed the photos of the proposed lights. Mr. Bassin noted that there are already 4-5 of these street lights installed in Ancram. Mr. Boice said that at his count there are seven lamps changed out.

Mr. Jerry Stone noted that the street light at the end of the parking lot at the town hall has been out for close to 18 months. He questioned why to even have Central Hudson change them. He questioned if there were lights in the other hamlets. Mr. Bassin reported that there are seven lights outside of the district. Mr. Stone asked if some of the lights can be eliminated, like the one at the town hall. He questioned if others actually wanted them. Mr. Bassin said that the assumption is that all of the lights will be replaced.

Mr. Derek Porter asked that people consider how removal of the lights will affect the continual lighting of the roads within the hamlets. He said that it is safer in denser parts of town to have the roads lite.

A question was raised that if seven of the lights had already been switched out, would the cost be reduced on the budgeting end. Ms. Flamm believed the amount would be reduced.

Ms. Flamm said that the town is asking for the installation of the 3000 Calvin lights. If the ones which have already been installed were 4000 lights, they will need to be changed out to 3000 Calvins. Ms. Flamm noted that at this time people are not complaining about light trespass.

Mr. DeJan noted that in the past the light across from his house had been changed out when the pole was replaced. It raised the street light and shined into their bedroom window. After they complained, the light was moved to another pole.

Mr. Stone asked who determines the light placement. Mr. Bassin said that the lights had been up for over fifty years. Mr. Stone asked if there was a light district board. Mr. Bassin said that the district is managed by the town board, but that if Mr. Stone would like to set up a committee he can. Mr. Stone asked why the cost of the lights went up 25% one year. Councilwoman Israel noted that the cost of electricity does increase over time.

Town Clerk Monica Cleveland noted an incident a few months ago when she was threatened by someone who had a court issue. The person had threatened to come to Ancram and use bodily harm. Mrs. Cleveland stressed that there are times when those working in the town hall are there at odd hours. The town hall needs the lights for safety including the light at the end of the parking lot which needs to be replaced.

It was noted that traffic and public safety need to be a priority. Dark skies and light trespassing need to be a priority. This will be accomplished with shielding and wattage.

Ms. Flamm noted that the Climate Smart Task Force supports this endeavor.

There being no more comments, a motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland

Ancram Town Clerk