

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting (Zoom Meeting)
April 16, 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 regular meeting of the Ancram Town Board was called to order at 7:00pm via zoom, by Supervisor Arthur Bassin with a salute to the flag.

Mr. Bassin asked if any of the members found any items on the agenda that they may need to recuse themselves from. There were none.

Supervisors Report

1. March Financial Report – February numbers were as expected. March may be the last normal financial month for a while. Notes from the 4/11 FAC meeting and a year-end cash projection are attached as part of the background materials for the Town Board meeting and cover the financial issues we face. Preliminary indications are first quarter sales tax and the first mortgage tax check are going to be stronger than expected, but the balance of the year is not as clear.

2. COVID - 19 – No telling at this point how bad this situation can get, how long it will last or how it will impact Town or County services. If schools stay closed and do not reopen before summer, the County may close all summer camps and pools for the summer. We should anticipate this and figure out a way to employ our camp counselors and lifeguards for community projects, and how to provide activities for campers short of running a camp. Our Town Hall has been closed to the public for the past month with staff working from home as much as possible, and the Town Court has also been closed. All town staff is available by phone and email any time during the week. .

3. CSCTF Initiatives –

1) Geothermal HVAC system at Town Hall – on hold for the moment. We are supposed to be getting an analysis from CPL Engineering on the economic and environmental costs and benefits of a geothermal system before our 4/16 meeting.

2) Converting to LED streetlights – We are ready to implement after working out a fee details with Central Hudson. Cost will be about \$3800, annual savings about \$2200.

3) Converting Garage & Town Hall lights to LEDs- These projects are done. Total cost for the new lights for Garage and Town Hall was about \$8500 with about \$6000 a year in estimated energy cost savings.

4. 2019 Audits – FAC has audited the Town Court and the Building Department. The audits of the Planning & ZBA departments, the Town Clerk/Tax Collector and the Town Supervisor have been postponed until further notice.

5. Community Cleanup Day - We had planned to hold our annual community cleanup day on May 30, but it is unlikely that will happen. We should probably plan to skip this year, and plan to do one as early next year as practical.

6. Historic Marker Grant - We have received a \$1100 grant to install a historic marker in Boston Corner at the location of the “corner” of NY, Massachusetts and Connecticut. And we have applied for historic markers for the Ancram and Ancramdale Historic Districts. John Hoffman has been managing this process.

7. New Plow Truck Loan – We ordered a new plow truck last fall to replace a 2006 truck that has incurred major repair costs in recent years. We had planned to pay cash, but given the economic uncertainties we are facing, I recommend we borrow to buy the truck. Rate is 1.99% for five years, and we can prepay the loans if things are not as bad as we expect.

8. Consolidated & Spectrum Franchise Agreements – These agreements terminate on May 15, 2020. Recommend we extend them for a year or two under existing terms and conditions. As a practical matter, we don’t have the time at this point to renegotiate terms and conditions.

Councilwoman Hundt questioned what was being done about the mold that was found behind the siding on the town hall. Supervisor Bassin reported that Jose is working on removing the molded boards and replacing them. An overall mold test will be conducted throughout the building to try and find any hot spots.

Board Member Comments

Councilwoman Hundt asked about the sixty day condemnation on the hotel building and questioned about the piece that is currently hanging off. Mr. Bassin replied that another note will be sent.

Councilman Clark asked about the progress of the 2020 census. He was told that the response rate was not healthy. Mr. Bassin will send out a reminder email.

Mr. Clark noted that the amount of trash along the road was accumulating. He suggested that possibly the highway department during down time pick up trash. Mr. Miller also said that if volunteers would like to pick up trash, the highway department will take the bags in their dumpster.

Highway Department

Mr. Miller explained that due to the Covid situation at this time, the highway department will be working as a split crew, three days on and three days off. They will continue to be paid a forty hour week. Mr. Miller said that this is the way the County Highway is working.

Councilwoman Hundt asked how the town was doing on sanitizer. Mr. Bassin said that the town still has 14 gallons.

Mr. Miller said that the department is working on pulling stumps, dirt roads and ditches. 2/3 of the back roads have been graded. The dump day has been moved to the fall.

A motion was made by councilman Boice and seconded by Councilman Clark to approve the warrants and pay the bills. Motions carried.

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

Resolution #24 of 2020: Plow truck loan – Resolved, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to secure a 5-year term loan for \$209,000 at an annual interest rate of 1.99% to fund the purchase of a plow truck for the Highway Department

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

Resolution #25 of 2020: \$25 dog impoundment fee – Resolved, that a \$25 dog impoundment fee will be charged for any dog that is picked up by the Town of Ancram Dog Control Officer.

Based upon information conveyed in an attorney-client relationship, Councilman Clark moved that the Town Board enter into executive session to discuss the potential discipline or removal of particular persons. Motion seconded by Councilman Boice. Motion passed.

Town Board came out of executive session and adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk