

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
May 21, 2020
Zoom Meeting**

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 held via zoom due to the covid-19 regulations. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bassin with a salute to the flag at 7:00pm.

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

Supervisors Report

1. April Financial Report – April numbers were as expected. We are budgeted to end the year with cash on hand of \$680,000, but if we experience reductions in sales tax and fee revenues of 40% and do not get any CHIPS money we are likely to see a reduction in revenues of about \$300,000, leaving us about \$380,000,000 in cash at year end. To replace the expected \$300,000 revenue shortfall and position ourselves for what we expect to be another very difficult 2021 budget year, we have identified \$595,000 in opportunities to improve cashflow, if necessary, by borrowing \$209,000 to buy the new plow truck, and making cuts in the highway department and the general fund totaling about \$386,00, or about 25% of our operating expense budget. These cuts include \$70,000 in camp & pool costs, \$50,000 in other general fund costs, \$10,000 in capital projects, \$66,000 in road repair costs, \$170,000 in CHIPS spending and about \$20,000 in snow removal costs.

2. COVID - 19 – No telling at this point how bad this situation will get, how long it will last or how it will impact Town or County services. Schools are not reopening this year, and the County is recommending that towns do not operate camps or pools. Our Town Hall has been closed to the public for the past two months with staff working from home as much as possible, and the Town Court has also been closed. At some point the State will allow us to reopen town hall, but it's hard to predict when. All town staff is available by phone and email any time during the week.

3. CSCTF Initiatives –

1) Geothermal HVAC system at Town Hall - The CPL analysis suggested a town hall geothermal system would cost about \$270,000 compared to the \$116,000 proposed by Aztech. NYSERDA is reviewing the two estimates, and we expect to talk with NYSERDA next week.

2) Converting to LED streetlights – We talked with Central Hudson last week, and will be getting a final proposal to change all streetlights to 3000K 25 watt LEDs in the next week or two. Cost will be about \$3800, annual savings about \$2200.

4. Building Department report – Code Enforcement Officer Ed Ferratto has compiled a summary of all derelict buildings in town and plans to review his analysis with us at the 5/21 meeting.

5. Historic Marker Grant - We have received a \$2200 grant to install historic markers for the Ancram and Ancramdale historic districts. We had previously received a \$1100 grant to identify the stone marker in Boston Corner at the intersection of the NY, Massachusetts and Connecticut borders. John Hoffman has been managing this process.

6. Communications training – We will review Jamie Ehring’s proposal for communications training for town boards and committees and decide on next steps.

7. BAR Appointment – Bob Mathers has resigned from the Board of Assessment Review. We will consider the appointment of Will Weiss, the BAR alternate, to replace Bob and serve out the remainder of his term. Grievance Day is May 26.

Councilman Boice spoke on the Town Pool. Mr. Boice feels that even if the pool is not open to the public this summer, the pool will still need to be turned on and run. There is the hope that both the beaches and pools will be open. All board members agreed that the pool will need to be run even if not open to the public.

Mr. Bassin reported that the town should go forward with assuming there will be a 40% drop in sales tax revenue. Councilwoman Hundt remarked that without having the pool open and camp running, the town will have approximately \$70,000 left in the budget. Mr. Bassin agreed that if the camp and the pool do not open, there will be no payroll for the lifeguards and the counselors. Councilwoman Hundt asked about feeding the children who usually are fed by the camp. Mr. Bassin said that if the schools do not continue with the meals, Jack Lindsey and Hila will Richardson will look into the bag meals.

Mr. Bassin asked the board their feelings on the sensitivity training for the planning board should be moved to an online course or to wait until in person meetings can be held. Councilwoman Hundt felt it should be an in person training. Councilman Clark felt that the town should plan for the planning board first to have the training and if it is possible, the zoning board as well.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Boice and moved for adoption through roll call vote. Councilman Clark, Yes; Councilman Boice, Yes; Councilwoman Hundt, Yes; Councilwoman Israel, Yes; Supervisor Bassin, Yes.

Resolution #26 of 2020: Plow Truck Loan - BOND RESOLUTION DATED MAY 21, 2020

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF A PLOW TRUCK AND ISSUANCE OF SERIAL BONDS OF THE TOWN OF ANCRAM, COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$212,343 PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL FINANCE LAW TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF, AND DELEGATING CERTAIN POWERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH TO THE TOWN SUPERVISOR

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Ancram, Columbia County, New York (the "Town") (by the favorable vote of not less than two-thirds of all of the members of the Town Board) as follows:

SECTION 1. The specific purpose (hereinafter referred to as "purpose") to be financed pursuant to this resolution is the acquisition of an International cab and chassis with snow plow, but excluding dump body, for highway maintenance purposes. The aggregate estimated maximum cost of said purpose is \$212,343 and said amount is hereby appropriated therefor. It is hereby determined that said purpose is an object or purpose described in subdivision 28 of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law, and that the period of probable usefulness of said purpose is fifteen years

SECTION 2. It is hereby determined that the above purpose described above constitutes a Type II action as defined under the State Environmental Quality Review Regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617, which has been determined under SEQRA not to have a significant impact on the environment.

SECTION 3. It is hereby determined that the proposed maturity of the obligations authorized by this resolution will not be in excess of five years from the original date of issuance of such obligations.

SECTION 4. The Town Board plans to finance the total cost of said purpose by the issuance of serial bonds of the Town in an amount not to exceed \$212,343, hereby authorized to be issued therefor pursuant to the Local Finance Law.

SECTION 5. Current funds are not required to be provided prior to the issuance of the bonds authorized by this resolution or any notes issued in anticipation of said bonds.

SECTION 6. The proceeds of the bonds herein authorized and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds may be applied to reimburse the Town for expenditures made after the effective date of this resolution for the purpose for which said bonds are authorized. This resolution shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations.

SECTION 7. Each of the bonds authorized by this resolution and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds, shall contain the recital of validity prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law. The faith and credit of the Town are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds becoming due and payable in such year. There shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property of the Town a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due and payable.

SECTION 8. Subject to the terms and contents of this resolution and the Local Finance Law, and pursuant to the provisions of Sections 30.00, 50.00 and 56.00 to 63.00, inclusive, of said Law, the power to authorize bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance of the serial bonds authorized by this resolution and the renewals of said notes and the power to prescribe the terms, form and contents of said serial bonds and said bond anticipation notes (including without limitation the date, denominations, maturities, interest payment dates, consolidation with other issues, and redemption rights), the power to determine to issue said bonds providing for substantially level or declining debt service, and the power to sell and deliver said serial bonds (including statutory installment bonds), and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds, is hereby delegated to the Town Supervisor, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the Town. The Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to sign any serial bonds issued pursuant to this resolution and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of

the issuance of said serial bonds, and the Town Clerk is hereby authorized to affix the corporate seal of the Town to any of said serial bonds or any bond anticipation notes and to attest such seal.

SECTION 9. The Town Supervisor is further authorized to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary to ensure the continued status of the interest on the bonds authorized by this resolution, and any notes issued in anticipation thereof, as excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") and to designate the bonds authorized by this resolution and any notes issued in anticipation thereof as "qualified tax-exempt bonds" for purposes of Section 265(b)(3)(B)(i) of the Code

SECTION 10. The validity of said serial bonds or of any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said serial bonds may be contested only if:

(1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the Town is not authorized to expend money; or

(2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of the publication of this resolution are not substantially complied with;

and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication; or

(3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution of New York.

SECTION 11. The Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish this resolution, or a summary thereof, together with a notice in substantially the form provided by Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law, in the Register Star and The Columbia Paper, being newspapers having a general circulation in the Town and hereby designated as the official newspaper of the Town for such publication.

Supervisor Bassin spoke about the proposed resolution to move the towns reserve money from TD bank account back to Greene County Bank. Councilwoman Hundt asked if the reason it was moved to TD bank was for CD rates? Supervisor Bassin said it was a money market account. Councilman Clark felt that he has no problem moving the money. He questioned if there was a benefit to closing the account instead of keeping it dormant. Councilman Bassin suggested that the town keep a small token amount in the TD Bank account to keep it open for possible future uses.

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

Resolution #26 of 2020: Transfer funds from TD Bank to BOGC: Resolved, that the Ancram Town Supervisor may close the Town money market account at TD Bank and move funds from that account to the Town money market account at the Bank of Greene County.

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

Resolution #27 of 2020: Town Hall Broadband – Resolved, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to enter into an agreement with Consolidated Communications to install 100 mbs broadband at the Ancram Town Hall for a cost not to exceed \$500 per month.

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

Resolution #28 of 2020: Appointment to Board of Assessment Review – Resolved, that William Maitland Weiss is hereby appointed to the Town of Ancram Board of Assessment Review to replace Robert Mathers and to fill Mr. Mather’s unexpired term which ends on September 30, 2020

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

Resolution #29 of 2020: 2019 Town Court Audit - Whereas section 2019-a of the Uniform Justice Act requires that town justices annually provide their court records and dockets to their town auditing boards, and whereas the Ancram Town Court presented its records and dockets to the Town of Ancram Financial Advisory Council for audit on March 14, 2020, and whereas the Financial Advisory Council audited Ancram court records and dockets and found them to be in order, therefore, it is Resolved that the Ancram Town Supervisor will notify the Office of Court Administration that this audit was performed and will send a copy of this resolution and the audit documents to the Office of Court Administration.

Mr. Bassin reported that the town has been awarded grants by the Pomeroy Foundation for for three historic markers – the Ancram and Ancramdale historic districts and the Boston Corner boundary marker. The highway department will put them up when they are delivered.

Mr. Bassin asked the town board members their thoughts on allowing businesses to advertise on the town website. Councilwoman Hundt said that she had never seen this done on a town website. Councilwoman Israel was opposed to the idea. Councilman Boice felt that if the town began this, there would be too many to keep up with. Councilman Clark questioned whether the Town had the ability to manage such website advertising and whether the Town should engage in such a business, especially given its potential for competition with, or favoritism toward, private enterprises.

Town Board Member Comments:

Councilwoman Israel said that a new newsletter will be coming out in June.

Councilwoman Hundt gave a thank you for the demolition of Porters Store.

Councilman Boice announced that there would not be a conventional Memorial Day Parade and that in its place there will be a Drive through the three towns by a convoy of town fire trucks and other emergency vehicles.

Councilman Boice asked what had been the outcome of the letter of support for a grant for the Opera House. If there was a study indeed done with the funds, he wondered if the town board could see it. Mr. Bassin said that the Opera house had been awarded the grant and that they are looking to go forward with the study.

Councilman Boice reflected on an issue with a town's part time employee and the fact that he is using his personal mower to mow the town lawns. He felt that if the towns mower was not working properly, then it needs to be maintained better. Mr. Boice said that he did not like the employee driving his own trailer behind a town truck and wondered on the liability of this if there was an accident. Highway Superintendent Miller said that he had addressed the situation and it was not happening any more. Councilman Boice was concerned with the way that the hill by the town pool was mowed and that it was not been done safely. He felt that there was no supervision for the employee. Councilwoman Hundt felt that if these things Mr. Boice has said are correct then the employee needs to be supervised better.

Councilman Clark made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Israel allowing the town board to sign a letter of support for a conservation easement for a 55 acre property. Motion carried.

Councilman Clark gave congratulations to Town Clerk Monica Cleveland for her designation as a Clerk of the Year listing by General Code. Clerk Cleveland thanked everyone.

Highway Report

Mr. Miller reported that the town highway department was continuing to work on a split crew. The employees will come back on full time this coming week. They have been working on dirt roads, ditch work, drainage work and they will be graveling roads this coming week. Mr. Miller reported that there has been no notice given about CHIPS money yet. If the town is awarded this money, it can be placed towards the new truck. Mr. Miller said that he plans to do small projects on Sawchuk and Prospect roads.

Councilman Boice asked about putting a berm, trees and fences in front of the new garage building as the town had discussed. Mr. Miller suggested some fast growing trees.

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Councilman Clark made a motion seconded by Councilman Boice to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland

Ancram Town Clerk

