

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
November 19, 2020
Zoom**

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 7:00 pm by supervisor Arthur Bassin with a salute to the flag. The meeting was held via Zoom.

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hundt and seconded by Councilman Clark to approve the minutes as read with the following addition to the regular October 2020 meeting minutes: In the section where the town board discusses the Ancram Hamlet sign, *Councilwoman Hundt made the comment that the Ancram Hamlet Committee should have their opinion about the placement of the sign on the little store property considered and that she has no preference to the placement.* All board members were in agreement to the addition and the minutes carried unanimously.

Community Solar Presentation

The climate smart community task force gave a presentation on the town supporting a community solar plan. Jill Henck from The Capital District Regional Economic Development Corporation gave a presentation as to how the program would work. The plan would be an option for residents who cannot have solar on their property. This would be a subscription program and would give a 10% reduction on residents' electric bills. The program works on an individual basis and a resident would have to opt into it. The solar would come from an offsite solar farm within the town's load zone.

Alex Goldfarb from Solstice spoke to the board about their part in the endeavor. He stated that anyone in Ancram will be eligible to take part and by signing up, the resident will get a welcome \$100 visa card. The town will receive \$100 for each resident that opts in, the money being used for a community endeavor. Solstice will help with any resident or town issues which may arise.

Colleen Lutz of the CSCTF agreed that this was an excellent way for the town to help promote reduction of their carbon footprint. This program will give individuals the opportunity to help global energy. She said that Solstice will also offer other renewable energy options in the future for the town. Mrs. Lutz asked that the town have a board member to work as a liaison to the

CSCTF. A question was asked as to what MOU stood for. Mrs. Lutz said that it meant Memorandum of Understanding and it is basically a statement of agreement between the town and Solstice.

Councilwoman Israel asked for clarification as to how the bill portion of the program works. It was explained that 90% of the energy bill would be paid to the solar farm. Some months the owner will get two bills, but the total of the two bills will always be cheaper than just paying the one electric bill.

Councilwoman Hundt asked about the access to local solar farms in the Ancram area. Solstice at this time is subscribing to a farm near Westerlo but there is a possibility of two more farms going in and the closest would be Kingston

Susan Flamm asked if the 10% only came off the energy portion and not the entire bill, including tax and hookup fees. Alex Goldfarb said that with Central Hudson it is the entire bill.

Susan Flamm, who is chair of the CSCTF, felt that this was a way for the town to reduce its carbon footprint and has been a large project for the committee.

Mr. Bassin liked that the program is an opt in program.

Councilman Clark asked if there was a length of time for either the town or Solstice to leave the contract. Alex Goldfarb thought there was a 30 day notice period, this having to do with the town opting out days after Solstice had put out money to advertise. He felt though that there were very few reasons either party would want to opt out.

Councilwoman Israel felt that this all sounded reasonable but that she was concerned with those persons on a budget plan with the energy company. Alex Goldfarb replied that a resident would never have to pay more than their budget amount in a month, but that he can get more information on how budget plans work.

Councilwoman Israel is already the liaison to the CSCTF. She said that she will continue in that position.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved for adoption. Resolution carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #41 of 2020: NYSERDA Solar Resolution: Supporting Ancram's Community Solar Campaign

WHEREAS, Solarize is a short term, local effort administered by Ancram's Climate Smart Task Force that brings together groups of potential community solar customers through widespread outreach and education, and

WHEREAS, this model helps customers choose a community solar company that is offering competitive, transparent pricing, and

WHEREAS, community solar typically offers up to 10% savings on residents' electric bills, and

WHEREAS, residents and businesses who sign up for community solar by a specific deadline will be able to support local solar energy generation and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ancram shall also be able to take advantage of community solar and receive up to a 10% discount on municipal electric accounts and

WHEREAS, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) provides technical assistance and other tools and resources to communities in support of Solarize campaigns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Ancram supports, endorses, and is committed to participate in a community solar campaign.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Ancram stands ready to assist with community outreach and education in support of a community solar campaign.

The following resolution was offered by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Clark and moved for adoption. Resolution carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #42 of 2020: Solstice Community Solar Program: RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Ancram hereby supports the Solstice Power Technologies Partnership Model as indicated in the terms and conditions outlined below

The objective of this partnership model is to offer community solar to residents of the town of Ancram, on community solar farms managed by Solstice Power Technologies in the Central Hudson utility load zones. Solstice will offer subscriptions to the appropriate community solar farm for eligible residents, small businesses, and municipality buildings. For every meter subscribed by residents of the town of Ancram, Solstice Power Technologies will donate \$100 towards ZZZ. The Town Board of Ancram will work with Solstice to promote the benefits of joining Solstice's local solar farms. These promotion efforts will be coordinated between the Town Board and a representative of Solstice (e.g. direct mail, promotion on the town website, etc.)

Solstice will ensure that all enrolled members of the solar farm will receive solar credits through their subscription, and a 10% discount on the cost of those solar credits as laid out in the Solstice customer agreement.

The Town Board of Ancram will agree to enroll any eligible meters paid with municipal funds, barring extenuating circumstances (e.g. building that already has agreed-upon plans to install solar panels). Solstice will make the same \$100 donation toward the town of Ancram's fund for ZZZ for each of these meters.

This partnership agreement will remain in effect until either xx xx, 20xx or the completed subscription of the two projects currently available for subscription in Central Hudson utility load zones. Solstice Power Technologies and the Town Board of Ancram will have the option to renew this agreement with the consent of both parties should there be subscriptions available to new solar farms after one of the above parameters has been met.

The Town Board of Ancram reserves the right to repurpose the funds as per a town resolution, but must inform Solstice if it should choose to do so. Should sufficient funds be raised to cover the entire cost of the initiative, the Town Board of Ancram will inform Solstice of how the additional funds will be used.

Ancram residents will be permitted to combine this with Solstice “enrollment bonuses” but no other third-party referral donations or bonuses. Solstice agrees to keep the Town Board of Ancram informed of any changes to existing enrollment bonuses - which are \$100 per meter at the time of this partnership agreement.

Supervisor Arthur Bassin brought the boards attention to the resolution of support to the town of Copake in their objections to the Shephards Run Solar Project. Mr. Bassin asked for comments from the town board members.

Councilwoman Hundt supported the board passing the resolution. She said she is in favor of supporting home rule and not allowing the state attempting to supersede town and county zoning. She felt that the project was too large and that the impacts are tremendous. Councilman Clark said that he supported the motion and that while the proposed 94-c was written to feel like it supported the environment, there are many clauses within it allowing it to be superseded. He felt there was a lack of unity within the policy. Councilman Boice agreed with supporting home rule but pointed out that the town board just chose to support another solar project and is now voting against a solar farm. Councilwoman Israel noted that she felt that the solar farms the town is in support of are small and reasonable and that the proposed farm in Copake is just too large. Steve Oleyha, a member of the ZRC, said that the committee has been very conscious of the language they use in the zoning law. He was concerned of the language in this resolution which read “destroy home values”. He questioned if this was a true fact. He felt that while he was in support of this resolution, he said that as time goes forward, people need to be aware there are going to be times when projects like this come up and 20-30 people may be impacted adversely, 30,000 people may benefit. Councilwoman Hundt responded that the language about home values came from working with real-estate agents. She also noted that the town needed to support our neighbor town and that she had an issue about prime farmland being used. Supervisor Bassin suggested that the town pass the last paragraph of the proposed resolution, which he read out to the board. All were in agreement with this.

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Bassin and seconded by Councilman Boice. Resolution was carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #43 of 2020: RESOLVED, that the Town of Ancram urges Governor Andrew Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; the New York State Senate and the New York State Assembly to adopt legislation which would meet the challenges of climate change without violating Home Rule and local zoning powers and which would more fairly distribute the responsibility of confronting Climate Change among all communities throughout the State instead of placing the entire burden on small rural communities.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hundt and seconded by Councilwoman Israel for the town of Ancram to join in a supporting statement with the Town of Copake to the NYS agency. Motion carried.

Historic Marker

Paul Ricciardi, representative of the Ancram Hamlet Planning Group, spoke to the town board about the process the Hamlet Planning Group went through to decide on the placement of the Historic District marker. He explained how the spots were decided on and that the voting was done. He felt that there are many more pressing matters in the hamlet besides the sign and that he doesn't feel the need to expend a lot of time on it. He said that one of the town board concerns about the sign being placed on private property (the Ancram little store), he pointed out the Papermill sign is on private property. Mr. Bassin proposed moving the current “Ancram”

sign out of the triangle and to the town hall property and then putting the new hamlet sign in the triangle. Mr. Ricciardi said that he felt there would be no objection to this. Councilman Clark noted that nobody brought up that the concern with the little store site could be that the sign gets lost among parking spaces and foliage. Councilwoman Hundt agreed that the triangle is not an ideal place for people to stop and read a sign. She felt the sign needed a place to be appreciated. Councilman Boice noted that in regards to the private property issue, the committee needs to remember that the papermill has been in the same place and operated as a mill since before the American Revolution. The Little store has been everything from a carpentry shop, a private residence and a store all within his lifetime. The odds of it remaining a store, while it is very hopeful, the town needs to be realistic. Councilwoman Israel asked about the placement of the sign being at the old cemetery. Mr. Ricciardi said that the committee had been favorable about this as well. Mr. Bassin noted that there was time to decide. The decision was deferred to next month.

Local Law # 2 of 2020

The following motion was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Supervisor Bassin: Based upon feedback from participants in the 15 October Public Hearing and upon additional research, deliberation, and recommendation by the Zoning Revisions Committee on 19 October 2020, I move to amend proposed LL #2 of 2020 re: Article V D (Individual Standards for Selected Uses...Special Events Facilities) (n) (Operational Limitations) (1), lines 1-2, from "No Special Event Facility shall be allowed to exceed an attendance level of 500 people, including guests and support staff..." to "No Special Event Facility shall be allowed to exceed an attendance level of 250 people, including guests and support staff..."

Mr. Bassin asked for discussion on this motion. Councilman Boice felt that there will be issues with traffic but that traffic is an issue regardless. Councilwoman Israel felt that this was a reasonable number, 250 and that 500 was over the top. Councilwoman Hundt felt that this was a good move that that 500 was to many. There being no more comments, the town board voted unanimously to pass the motion.

The following motion was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel:

Motion to Amend:

Based upon situations identified by Mr. Boice on 15 November 2020 in his position as Ancram Fire Chief, which were discussed by the Zoning Revisions Committee on 16 November 2020, and which prompted the Zoning Revisions Committee to recommend an addition to proposed Local Law #2 of 2020, I move to amend proposed LL #2 of 2020 re: Article V D (Individual Standards for Selected Uses...Short Term Rentals) b 3 (Occupancy Standards) to add subsection "h:"

"h. The STR owner shall inform tenants in writing and shall post in a prominent place within the STR the street address of the STR and the agency name and telephone numbers for fire, police, and medical emergency services. If the STR is equipped with a security alarm system, the owner shall provide the agency name and contact information. It shall be the affirmative responsibility of the property owner to ensure that the tenant always has the most current emergency contact information."

Mr. Bassin asked for comments. Councilman Boice asked that the writing to the tenants state to call 911, not the fire house and that all of the notices be required to be placed in the same spot, like the front door. Councilman Clark felt that because this has to cover rentals as small as one bedroom all the way up to four bedrooms, this would be hard to require. But, he did note that the ZEO would look at this during the inspection. There being no more comments, the motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Bassin had concerns with a four-bedroom house allowing 16 persons to rent. He felt it was twice as many people as made sense. He would like to see the change made to two people per room per house. Councilwoman Israel agreed in the sense that this amount of people would be taxing on areas such as septic. Councilman Clark responded that in regards to the septic, the zeo would not allow this "overtaxing" to happen during the review of the application. While he understood the reduction, he was concerned that this would allow people to skirt the rules and he would rather not nudge people into violations. Councilwoman Hundt noted that the ZRC had spent many hours discussing this issue but that the committee felt that the board of health and the town application process will oversee this. Mr. Clark also noted that the property owners will have an annual renewal, allowing the town to look at any complaints and that there will be included a letter from the ZEO that will address if there were any violations or complaints.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bassin to propose limiting the number of persons per bedroom in STR's down to 3 from 4. There was no second to this motion.

At this time the town board went over Part 2 of the SEQRA form. A motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt to accept part 2 of the SEQRA form. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Clark read parts of the SEQRA FEAF Part 3, highlighting that the Town Board had reviewed FEAF Parts 1 and 2 and determined that there are no identified potential moderate to large adverse environmental impacts associated with adopting amendments, that this is a SEQR Type 1 action, that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared, and that a negative declaration should be issued. Accordingly, Mr. Clark made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Israel, to adopt and issue a negative declaration. Motion carried unanimously. Councilman Clark asked if the board felt there was need for another Public Hearing on the local law. Mr. Bassin felt that the changes made did not make a substantial change to warrant another public hearing. The board agreed.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt. Ms. Hundt noted a thank you to the committee for a tremendous amount of work under the guidance of Mr. Clark and Nan Stolzenburg. She felt that the changes were for the safety of the public. Resolution carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Resolution #44 of 2020

LL#2 of 2020: Adopting Local Law No. 2 of 2020, a "Local Law Amending Miscellaneous Provisions of the Town of Ancram Zoning Law previously adopted on November 20, 2014, and as amended since, and Adding New Provisions."

Whereas:

1. This resolution proposes new legislation in the form of a local law amending miscellaneous provisions of the Town of Ancram Zoning Law, previously adopted on November 20, 2014 and as amended since, and that also adds several new provisions.
2. The new Zoning Law is proposed in the form of a Local Law pursuant to the authority and power granted to the Town Board and the Town by Articles 2 and 3 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law and by Article 2 of the New York State Statute of Local Governments.
3. In 2019, pursuant to the authority granted in New York State Town Law § 272-a, the Town of Ancram adopted an updated Comprehensive Plan. That Plan sets forth Ancram's vision for its future, and the blueprint for how the Town should grow and how Ancram should preserve the characteristics and qualities of the Town so valued by Town residents. The Comprehensive Plan consists of materials, written and/or graphic, including, but not limited to, maps, charts, elements, appendices and other descriptive material. Section 272-a (11) of the Town Law requires, in relevant part, that all town land use regulations must be in accordance with an adopted Comprehensive Plan.
4. It is our intention to adopt a Zoning Law which brings Ancram's zoning law into accord with the 2019 Comprehensive Plan. Our existing Town Zoning Law was adopted in 2014 and amended several times since then to address issues as they have arisen. Since the adoption of the updated Comprehensive Plan, the Town recognized there is a need for the Zoning Law to address current land uses not previously addressed in the Town Zoning Law including short-term rentals, special event venues, and the spreading of biosolids on farmlands.
5. In addition to, and in confluence with the implementation of the goals of the Town's Comprehensive Plan, it is also the purpose of the proposed Zoning Law to exercise our Town's right to protect our citizens by controlling the use of land so as to broadly protect the public health, safety and general welfare and to carry out locally established goals and objectives in accordance with a comprehensive plan designed to preserve and protect, for the benefit of the town as a whole, the basically rural-agricultural character of the Town.
6. This proposed Zoning Law is the result of hours of work over at least a year by the Town's Zoning Review Committee (ZRC). Throughout that time, the ZRC has been working with the benefit of professional assistance from Nan Stolzenburg, AICP, of Community Planning and Environmental Associates.
7. The Town Board reviewed the Environmental Assessment Form (EAF), Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).
8. The Town Board determined that no significant adverse environmental impacts would result from adoption of Local Law #2 of 2020 and issued a Negative Declaration pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617.
9. Pursuant to New York State Municipal Home Rule Law § 20, Local Law No. 2 of 2020 proposing updates to the Zoning Law for the Town of Ancram was received by each member of the Town Board prior to this meeting via email and that proposed Local Law shall be deemed to be on the desk of each member of the Town Board as of tonight's Town Board meeting.
10. Pursuant to New York State Municipal Home Rule Law § 20, and Article XII of the Town of Ancram Zoning Law, the Town Board hereby introduces a revised Proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2020, a "Local Law Amending Miscellaneous Provisions of the Town of Ancram Zoning Law previously adopted on November 20, 2014, and as amended since, and Adding New Provisions."
11. The Town Board directed that the proposed Local Law be referred to the Columbia County Planning Board for its review and for an advisory opinion pursuant to Section 239-m of the New York State General Municipal Law. The referral to the County was

made in conformity with the applicable provisions of New York State General Municipal Law § 239-m and the County determined that adoption of this Local Law would not have any county-wide implications and thus approved the local law.

12. Town Board directed that the proposed Local Law be referred to the Town of Ancram Planning Board in accordance with Town of Ancram Zoning Law Article XII(B) for its review and for an advisory opinion and the Planning Board delivered in writing, its approval.
13. In accordance with New York State Municipal Home Rule Law § 20(5), the Town Board scheduled and held a properly noticed Public Hearing on the Proposed Local Law via Zoom and allowed for written public input subsequent to the hearing. The Town Board also posted a copy of the proposed Local Law on the Town's web site, and made a paper copy of the proposed Local Law available for review by the public at the Town of Ancram Town Hall, 1416 County Route 7, Ancram NY 12502.
14. Public comments were reviewed by the Town of Ancram Zoning Revision Committee and the Town Board and subsequently, the Town Board prepared a final version of the proposed zoning amendments, attached as Amendment A to this resolution.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

- Section A. That the Town Board hereby adopts Local Law # 2.
- Section B. That the Town Board instructs the Town Clerk to file the ENB form as required by 6NYCRR Part 617.
- Section C. That the Town Board directs the Town Clerk to inform the Columbia County Planning Office of its decision on such form as may be prescribed by the Columbia County Planning Office.
- Section D. That the Town Board directs the Town Clerk to file Local Law #2, as adopted by the Town Board, with the New York State Department of State immediately.
- Section E. That the Town Board shall enter this law into the minutes of the Town Board and shall publish a summary or abstract of it once in the official newspaper of the Town.
- Section F. That the Town Board instructs the Town Clerk to maintain a file in her office in the Town Hall to contain all parts of this law and instructs the Town Clerk to ensure that all parts of the law be posted on the Town's website and that the Town Board cause affidavits of the publication and posting of the amendments be filed with the Town Clerk.

Supervisors Report

1. Financial Report – October numbers were as expected, and our year end cash forecast continues at about \$1.1 - \$1.2 million. YTD sales tax receipts are about flat to last year, and September was about 26% over September 2019. Fall 2020 mortgage tax receipts are estimated to be about \$36,000, which will make the total 2020 mortgage tax number about \$66,000, about \$36,000 better than budget.

2. Solar Issues - We will hear a proposal from Solstice for the Town to participate in the Solstice solar program which will save our residents about 10% on their electric costs. This program is recommended by the CSCTF and CAC. We also will consider a resolution requested by the Town of Copake opposing the Shepherd's run solar project.

3. Local Law #2 of 2020 (Zoning Amendments) – We will consider Local Law #2 of 2020 for adoption. The only change in the proposed local law from the previous draft is a recommended reduction from 500 to 250 people as the maximum number of attendees at an event in a special event facility. Hugh Clark will walk us through the SEQRA. We have received County and Town Planning Board comments indicating no issues.

4. 2021 Budget – We will have a public hearing on the final 2021 Budget prior to the 11/19 Board Meeting. The 2021 Budget keeps property taxes flat at \$752,000. Sales taxes are

budgeted at \$300,000, down \$25,000 from this year, and our contingent accounts are at \$100,000, \$30,000 less than this year. There are no new capital spending projects proposed for the next few years, but we will have about \$70,000 available as part of the 2019 NYSEERDA grant to help fund a new TH HVAC system in 2021 if we develop an energy efficient solution. We also will have the \$1.1 - \$1.2 million fund balance available if we need to make unbudgeted capital investments in 2021.

5. HVAC at Town Hall – The geothermal system we have been looking into has become significantly more expensive than originally assumed, so we are now looking into conventional systems and air source and ground source heat pump systems.

5. Ancram Historic District Marker – Ancram Hamlet Planning Group co-chair Paul Ricciardi has requested an opportunity to discuss the proposed location of the Ancram Hamlet Historic District Marker when we meet on Thursday. The four possible locations are the triangle at the 82/7 intersection, at the Little Store or on CR 7 by the Freeground Cemetery by Hall Hill Rd or opposite the old town hall on CR 7.

6. Retiree Health Insurance – We will consider a resolution to approve a health insurance program for eligible employees who retire after January 1, 2021 and their spouses.

7. Town Property & Liability Insurance – We are expecting two proposals – two firms have dropped out of the process because they were blocked by other firms who had prior claims on the carriers they use. FAC will review bids in November and will present a recommendation to the Board in December.

8. CDL Drug & Alcohol Testing Plan & Policy – We will consider this Plan and Policy for adoption at our 11/19 meeting. Elements of this Plan & Policy are currently outlined in summary form in our Employee Handbook, but our Attorney has recommended we expand what is in the handbook into a stand-alone document with more extensive and detailed provisions to more precisely comply with current law.

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

Resolution #45 of 2020: 2021 Final Budget: Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board approves the 2021 Town Budget as presented.

Mr. Bassin reported that the GeoThermal system for the town hall has proved to be too expensive. Mr. Bassin said the next option the town is looking at is Air Source Heat Pumps.

Steve Oleyha gave an update on the Town Hall Smart TV. The town is waiting on a response to an updated RFP from Dave's TV. At this time, as the town hall is closed to the public, the town will put off this project until into 2021. Mr. Bassin would like to see the new computers purchased first.

Mr. Bassin explained to the board members the proposed changes to Retirement Health Insurance. At this time the town does not offer retirement insurance to current full time employees when they retire. The proposed change would give insurance to employees at the following amounts; up to 10 years of service 50% coverage, 11-24 years of service 75% coverage and after 25 years 100% coverage. Councilwoman Hundt asked if this is similar to the county plan. Mr. Bassin said it is in a way but that the County does not go to 100%. Ms. Hunt

suggested taking the word Advantage Plan out of the proposed resolution as it would pigeon hole the town into only providing that specific plan. The board decided to look at this again in December and make a final decision.

Mr. Bassin told the board that the FAC is still looking at the insurance proposals and has them narrowed down to two top choices.

Mr. Bassin directed the board to the CDL Drug Policy resolution. Councilwoman Hundt asked if testing is currently done for this. Mr. Bassin said yes. Mr. Miller remarked that the tests are administered randomly by the county highway department and done at the county garage. The testing is done by a company named Partners in Safety and the town pays for the service. Ms. Hundt asked what happens if someone shows up for work under the influence. Mr. Miller said they are sent home and written up.

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

Resolution #45 of 2020: CDL Drug Prevention Policy - Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board approves and adopts the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Drug and Alcohol Testing Plan and Policy dated October 19, 2020.

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

Resolution #46 of 2020: Radar speed sign installation permits: Resolved, that the Ancram Town Supervisor is authorized to apply to the NYS Department of Transportation for permits to install radar speed signs on state roads in the Town of Ancram.

Town Board Member Comments

Councilman Boice read hand written letter from resident Donna Hoyt to the board. The letter can be found on file in the town clerks office.

Councilwoman Hundt reported that she has continued attended to meetings with the Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress to discuss housing needs. She reported that the median homes sales price is up 38.9%. The future of affordable housing is bleak Ms. Hundt said with the rise in home prices and rentals becoming STR's.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Miller reported that the department is getting ready for winter. They have replenished the gravel pile and the sand is ready. The garage had four Norway Spruce planted for screening. Mr. Miller said he has been working on a plan to have in place if the highway garage has a case of Covid. He has been in touch with the neighboring towns and some relief plow men if needed.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Cleveland reported that she is thinking actively ahead to tax season. With the town hall shut for Covid, she will have to have a plan B to collect the taxes. She has purchased an outside box for herself and the assessor to use for people who wish to drop off payments and forms. She suggested having a postcard printed to place in all tax bills and renewal forms that

explains that the town hall is closed, mail payments are requested and that if a person needs to see the tax collector or assessor, an appointment will need to be made.

Mr. Bassin asked the board members their feelings about allowing Covid rapid tests at the town hall. All of the members agreed that while this would be a great public service, the risk of exposure to the town hall employees is too great. Both Councilwoman Hundt and Councilwoman Israel agreed that this would be something best suited to being done in the parking lot. Mr. Bassin will keep the town board informed as to how the county is going to handle this.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Boice to make the budget adjustment, approve the warrant and pay the bills. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk