

**Town of Ancram  
Town Board  
Public Hearing  
2022 Preliminary Budget  
October 21, 2021**

**Present:** Supervisor Arthur Bassin  
Councilwoman Bonnie Hundt  
Town Clerk Monica Cleveland  
Highway Superintendent James Miller  
Councilman Hugh Clark  
Councilwoman Madeline Israel

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Supervisor Arthur Bassin called the public hearing on the 2022 Preliminary Budget to order at 6:45 pm.

Mr. Bassin noted that at this time, the 2022 budgeted tax levy is down \$5,000 from the 2021 budget.

Mr. Bassin opened the public hearing up to comments from the Town Board members and the public.

Councilwoman Israel asked that the town board consider increasing the town board member salaries to \$4,000 for the 2022 year. Councilwoman Israel noted that she is not running at this time for her town board seat so she feels that she has no "skin in the game". This would be an increase of \$1000 per board member over what is currently in the 2022 Preliminary Budget.

Councilwoman Hundt asked Mr. Bassin how increases to salaries were determined. Mr. Bassin answered that the salaries were increased by 3-4% across the board with some higher increases. The individual departments do not budget raises. Ms. Hundt noted that some raises are going up more than others. She pointed out that the highway superintendent was going up \$2,000. Mr. Bassin stated that yes, this increase was 3.3% over the highway superintendent salary from 2021. The proposed hourly rate for clerical staff will increase from \$19.40 in 2021 to \$21.00 in 2022. Highway salaries had been increased earlier in the year and are in the 2022 budget at the higher previously approved level of \$24-\$27 per hour.

Councilwoman Hundt asked why the cable franchise line was \$20,000. Mr. Bassin answered that this number is based on the actual running rate in 2021.

Mr. Bassin noted that the contingent funds are located in the general fund contingent account and the general fund highway equipment account.

Mr. Bassin said that the enhanced police patrols were coming in between \$1,000 and \$2,000 a month. Mr. Bassin noted that this is why the police line is at \$12,000 for 2022. Ms. Hundt felt that the patrols should be looked at in 2022 to see if the expenditure was needed and noted

that she felt this was a lot of money to spend to make people have a sense of safety when it is possible it is not slowing cars down.

Councilwoman Hundt asked about a \$3,150 expenditure for the ZBA in 2021 when she thought they had not met this year. It was noted that this expense line is shared by both the ZBA and the planning board. The expenditures were for the planning board for items like mailings and zoom fees.

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland  
Ancram Town Clerk