

**Town of Ancram  
Town Board  
Regular Meeting  
October 18, 2012**

<b>Present:</b>	Supervisor Arthur Bassin	Councilman James Miller
	Councilman Chris Thomas	Councilman Hugh Clark
	Councilwoman Madeline Israel	Town Clerk Monica Cleveland

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The regular Town Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Bassin with a salute to the flag.

Mr. Bassin introduced to the board Howard Van Lenten of the Roeliff Jansen Library. Mr. Van Lenten gave a presentation to the board concerning the Town of Ancram and the library system. The library opened two years ago. It houses 15 high speed computers and holds numerous classes a month. There is an average of 4000 people using the library a month. The library is open 41 hours a week. Of the entire Hudson Valley library system, the Roeliff jansen Community Library has the is the lowest operating costs in the system. 545 Ancram residents have library cards, about 50% appear to use one of the libraries in the system, and about 50% of those people appear to use the Roeliff Jansen Library. The operating costs for the year are \$250,000 excluding the mortgage. 29% of operating costs come from the towns and 58% from fundraisers. \$24,000 from Copake, \$37,000 from Hillsdale and \$3500 from Ancram. Mr. Bassin stated that the 2012 contribution from the town was \$3500.00. The board needs to decide if they wish to increase the amount to \$5000.

Mr. Hugh Clark asked what the definition of a library is. Mr. Van Lenten stated that the old definition would be a repository for books. Now, it includes education. Mr. Clark asked how the library distinguished between the books and the community center. Mr. Van Lenten stated that the library cannot. Mr. Clark stated that he is not against libraries but is concerned that Ancram should fund the library and not the community center. Mr. Van Lenten stated that the community center money comes from grants and not from operating costs.

Mrs. Leah Wilcox stated that she felt the town is obligated to make a donation increase.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Clark to allow for the budget increase to the library to the \$5000.00 number. Motion carried.

**Animal Control**

Mr. Wes Powell addressed the barking dog issue. Mr. Bassin stated that the issue is hard to enforce because it is controlled by the Noise Ordinance. Mr. Hugh Clark stated that he has done some research on the subject and that this is a difficult issue. Mr. Powell stated that dogs bark and that it is hard to find a good

barking dog law. He felt that the past case got carried away and that it became a personal thing. He stated that Ancram needs a sound law and that in his 26 ½ years it is the first case that has no proof. He stated that even with a new law, it would still not be able to be proved. Mrs. Israel asked if the woman can sue the town. Mr. Powell stated not, that there was no personal injury. Mr. Thomas stated that he does not think the new law will matter. Mr. Miller stated that he would like to at least change it so that the town does not have to pay money.

### **Windmills**

Mr. Bassin stated that Mr. Passeri has a kit for the low speed groaning noise. He believes it will solve the problem. Mr. Bassin said Mr. Passeri has said the hovering helicopter sound at high wind speeds when the power is off can be controlled by furling the tail of the wind turbines.

### **Fire Chief**

Mr. Boice stated that there will be a public meeting for the firehouse expansion on November 6, 2012. The following meeting will be on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Supervisors Report**

**Financial Report:** Spending for the nine months ending September 2012 totaled \$1,029,000, about on budget, and about \$160,000 better than September YTD last year. Our spending this year continues to benefit from the mild winter (\$45,000), from moving our Rescue Squad costs to the county (\$84,000) and from having no playground costs this year (\$20,000). Revenues, in aggregate, appear to be tracking slightly above budget. We ended September with \$817,000 in the bank, and assuming no unpleasant surprises, expect to end the year with over \$550,000 in the bank, which is about \$50,000 more than I have been expecting. The September YTD Financial Summary Chart is attached. The detailed budget reports are available on the home page of the Town website ([www.townofancram.org](http://www.townofancram.org)) as part of the background for the September TB meeting, and at Town Hall, and have been emailed to you separately.

**Zoning Revisions:** We will review and adopt Package 3 with the proposed minor revisions to setbacks at the TB meeting next week, and will discuss Package 4, which we will consider for adoption at the November TB meeting. Public Hearing for package 4 is Monday, October 17 at 7 pm.

**2013 Preliminary Budget:** We will do a public hearing on the Preliminary 2013 Town Budget at 6:30 on October 18, right before the TB meeting. The Preliminary Budget proposes a tax cut of \$33,000 and a contingent account of \$72,000. We will consider the budget for adoption at the November TB meeting.

**82/7 Intersection:** The County and State are starting on this project this month.

**Wind Turbines:** We will be getting a short presentation on wind turbines and the low wind speed noise problems on Carson Rd on Thursday from Doug Passeri of Hudson Valley Wind Energy.

**Historical and Cultural Resources Survey:** We have received about \$8500 in donations so far. I hope to have \$10,000 by the end of the year.

**Dog Law:** We will discuss a proposed new dog law on Thursday, modeled on the New Lebanon law.

## **County Issues**

**Homeless shelter:** With the number of homeless singles at around 16, down 50% from a year ago, the plan for the 37 room homeless facility has been tabled. DSS is looking into other options.

**2013 County Budget:** The County has started the 2013 budget process, and will be looking to hold County taxes flat again in 2013, for the third consecutive year. Nothing definite will be available probably until mid-November

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Miller to approve the preliminary budget, Motion carried.

## **Highway Department Report**

The highway department reported that the siding check has arrived. The department reviewing options for installing security cameras.

## **Court Offices**

Justice Wilcox confirmed that the security system at Town Hall will be installed within the week.

## **Financial Advisory Council**

The FAC will be meeting on Saturday.

## **Intersection Advisory Committee**

The County informed the Supervisor that once the vegetation at the intersection was removed, a crack in the retaining wall was found. This crack may compromise the Porter's Store building. Once a solution is found, the IAC will be notified.

## **Communications Committee**

There will be a newsletter out this week. The Communications committee is looking at providing the town with a community calendar.

## **Conservation Advisory Council**

The CAC has made recommendations for modifying the town's purchasing policy.

## **Historian**

Mr. Bassin stated that Ruth Powanka and Historian Clara VanTassel have been driving around town looking at the historical buildings.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to allow Bill Hunt to attend training for a fee of \$80.00. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to accept the following resolution. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**Resolution #33 of 2012: Adoption of Changes to Zoning Revisions – Package 3**

Whereas the Ancram Town Board adopted Zoning Revisions - Package 3 at the September 20, 2012 Town Board meeting subject to a final review by the Zoning Revisions Committee and possible minor changes to setbacks resulting from that final review; and

Whereas the Zoning Revisions Committee has proposed several minor changes to Package 3 related to setbacks required from property lines when new agricultural or business structures uses are constructed; and ; and

Whereas the Ancram Town Board has reviewed these proposed minor changes to setbacks and approves them;

**Therefore it is resolved that** the Ancram Town Board adopts Package 3 of the Zoning Revisions with the proposed changes to setbacks, and will post Package 3 with these changes in the office of the Town Clerk and on the Town website, communicate Package 3 to the County of Columbia Planning Department, publish a summary of Package 3 in the official town newspapers and take all other communications steps and notifications needed to adopt and implement these zoning revisions.

Mr. Bassin asked that the Board Members take the Package #4 SEQRA home and read through it prior to the next Town Board meeting.

Mr. Bassin stated that the Gallatin Cell Tower project is moving along.

An Eagle Scout award will be given to Carl Jamieson of Ancramdale on November 3, 2012 at the Ancram Town Hall.

The following Highway Budget Adjustment was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel. Motion carried.

From 5142.4 \$7,500.00 and 5110.4 \$8,000.00 to 5130.4 \$7,500.00 and 5130.2 \$8,000.00.

The following General Budget adjustment was offered by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel. Motion carried.

From 7020.4 \$1,500.00 and 7310.4 \$1,000.00 to 7020.1 \$1,500.00 and 7310.1 \$1,000.00.

The next Town Board meeting will be preceded by the continuation of the Public Hearing for Package #4 of the proposed zoning amendments.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Thomas to pay the bills. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica Cleveland  
Ancram Town Clerk