

Proposed Resolutions - 9/15/2022

1) 2023 Preliminary Budget Public Hearing - Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2023 Preliminary Budget at 6:55 pm on Thursday, October 20, 2022 at the Ancram Town Hall, 1416 CR 7, Ancram NY 12502. 2023 salaries for elected Town Officials are budgeted to increase by on average 5% to the following amounts: Town Board members \$3200; Town Supervisor \$5250; Town Justices: \$6125; Town Clerk: \$35,650; Town Highway Superintendent: \$67,300. In addition the Ancram Town Board will consider and may approved a one time 5% non-recurring inflation adjustment payment for all employees, including elected officials, at the December 2022 Town Board meeting to be funded from the Town's 2022 fund balance if the rate of inflation continues to be at current levels. The 2023 Preliminary Budget will be available from the Ancram Town Clerk, will be posted on the Town website at www.ancramny.org and will be circulated to the Ancramemail list.

2) Water Survey – Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board approves conducting a survey of water quantity and quality issues in the hamlet of Acnram at a cost not to exceed \$3000.

3) Key Bank Brokerage Account for T-bill Investments - Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to open a brokerage account and any necessary additional accounts for the Town with Key Bank to allow the Town to buy treasury bills in order to increase the return on the Town's fund balance, and be it further resolved that Town Supervisor Arthur J. Bassin and Deputy Town Supervisor Hugh D. Clark shall be authorized signers on these accounts, and that each may act independently to buy or sell investments in this account.

4) Bank of Greene County/Infinix Brokerage Account for T-bill Investments - Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to open a brokerage account for the Town with Bank of Greene County and its affiliate Infinix to allow the Town to buy treasury bills in order to increase the return on the Town's fund balance, and be it further resolved that Town Supervisor Arthur J. Bassin and Deputy Town Supervisor Hugh D. Clark shall be authorized signers on this brokerage account, and that each may act independently to buy or sell investments in this account.

5) NYS Climate Action Council Scoping Plan - Declaring Support for the New York State Climate Action Council Scoping Plan:

WHEREAS, the Sixth Assessment of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) finds that climate change is causing dangerous and widespread disruption in nature and affecting the lives of billions of people around the world; and

WHEREAS, the IPCC Assessment concludes that rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) are necessary, including accelerated action in this critical decade, to limit global warming to within 1.5°C and 2°C in this century; and

WHEREAS, New York State recognizes the urgent need to reduce and eliminate GHG emissions in the atmosphere, passing the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act ("Climate Act") committing the State to:

- reduce GHG emissions by 40 percent by 2030 below 1990 levels, and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050;
- meet 70 percent of electricity needs from renewable resources by 2030, and 100 percent of electricity needs from zero-emissions resources by 2040;
- ensure a just and equitable transition that leaves no one behind, and dedicate up to 40 percent of the benefits of clean energy investments to Disadvantaged Communities; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Climate Action Council has approved for public comment a Draft Scoping Plan to meet New York's climate and equity goals; and

WHEREAS, the Scoping Plan calls for shifting to energy-efficient electrification in buildings and transportation as the primary solution to replace fossil-fuel combustion in these sectors, which together account for 60 percent of the state's carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Scoping Plan calls for a phase-down of emissions from fossil fuel-fired electricity generation, while ensuring support and protections for impacted workers as they transition to clean energy jobs;

WHEREAS, the 2021 Jobs Study by the Just Transition Working Group for the NYS Climate Action Council estimates that meeting New York's climate goals will result in a net gain of 189,000 jobs across the state by 2030, alone, with a ratio of jobs gained to jobs displaced of 10 to 1; and

WHEREAS, the Scoping Plan includes measures that would expand the development of renewable resources and battery storage, encourage "agrivoltaics," or the co-location of agricultural activities with solar and wind, and provide resources to communities to assist with renewable siting and land-use planning;

WHEREAS, the Scoping Plan recognizes the critical role that rural landscapes play, both natural and working lands, in sequestering carbon emissions and enabling the state to achieve net-zero emissions, and the importance of agricultural land preservation, open space protection, support for farmers to improve soil health, and policies that expand afforestation and reforestation and incentivize and assist private landowners in implementing sustainable forest management practices;

WHEREAS, the Integration Analysis for the Scoping Plan finds that meeting emissions reduction goals of the Climate Act is technically feasible and will have the additional and significant benefit of improving public health by eliminating co-pollutants from fossil fuel combustion, resulting in an estimated \$50 to \$120 billion in health-related savings by 2050; and

WHEREAS, according to NYSERDA, over half of what New Yorkers currently spend on energy leaves New York, mostly for fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, our communities would be better served by keeping energy spending primarily within the local economy; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Town of Ancram affirms the critical importance of meeting the emissions and equity goals of the Climate Act, which will help mitigate dangerous warming while delivering the additional benefits of improving public health, economic opportunities, agricultural land open space protection, and quality of life for the people of the Town of Ancram and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Town of Ancram declares its support for prohibiting an expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure, which contradicts the goals of the Climate Act, and for transitioning to efficient electricity-based solutions for buildings and transportation; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town of Ancram supports a planning process for a managed transition of the utility gas system that maintains affordable, safe, and reliable utility service and protects low- and moderate-income households from an undue burden in the transition; and be it further

Commented [ab1]: Hugh Clark asks - What is an undue burden?

RESOLVED, the Town of Ancram supports the recommendations of the Scoping Plan for advanced building codes that will improve the energy efficiency of new buildings, creating healthier living and work environments while reducing monthly energy costs; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town of Ancram supports the recommendations of the Scoping Plan to phase in code requirements prohibiting on-site combustion of fossil fuels in new buildings over a 2024-2027 period; and, be it further

Commented [ab2]: Hugh Clark asks how this will impact the need for more affordable housing/

RESOLVED, the Town of Ancram calls on the Climate Action Council to include in the Scoping Plan the necessary policies and support to help owners of existing buildings improve energy efficiency and transition to zero-emissions equipment, ensuring cost parity with fossil systems, with incentives and financing assistance as necessary; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Town of Ancram supports Scoping Plan recommendations that make electric vehicles more affordable relative to gas-powered vehicles, and expand fast-charging infrastructure; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Town of Ancram urges the Climate Action Council to include in the Scoping Plan recommendations to expand assistance for all-electric upstate municipal transit systems; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Town of Ancram further urges the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and NYSERDA to immediately launch a sustained statewide public education and information campaign on the benefits of a clean energy

economy and climate-friendly choices by consumers of heating and cooling systems, transportation, and products and appliances; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Town of Ancram supports Scoping Plan recommendations to mitigate agricultural GHG emissions, primarily methane and nitrous oxide as well as carbon sequestration primarily through the growth of trees and other plants, but also through well managed healthy soils. The Town of Ancram also urges the Climate Action Council to include support for related regenerative land use practices on private properties and gardens in its final Scoping Plan, and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town of Ancram supports the New York State Climate Action Council Scoping Plan if that Council explicitly agrees and the Plan explicitly states that any proposed physical action that affects local landscape and character will be executed only upon acceptance by the municipality in whose jurisdiction that project is proposed.

RESOLVED, the Town of Ancram shall forward copies of this resolution to the Commissioner of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, President of NYSERDA, Chair of the NYS Public Service Commission, the NYS Climate Action Council, and Members of the State Senate and Assembly representing the Town of Ancram.

Commented [ab3]: Hugh Clark asks how this will impact farmers , what kinds of practices are envisioned here and what this means for landowners