

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
December 15, 2022**

Present: Supervisor Arthur Bassin Councilman Hugh Clark
 Councilman David Boice Councilwoman Amy Gold
 Councilwoman Bonnie Hundt Town Clerk Monica Cleveland

Supervisor Arthur Bassin called the regular meeting of the Ancram Town Board to order at 7:00pm with a salute to the flag.

Mr. 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 Gold and seconded by Councilman Clark to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and have them placed on the record. Motion carried.

CRB Committee

Mr. Bassin asked if there were any questions from the board in regards to the proposed Code of Conduct and Incident Report presented by the Committee on Respectful Behavior. Mr. Bassin asked what the next step for the committee is. Chairperson Jaclyn Ryan noted that the next step for the committee once passed, will be setting up a live email. Mr. Bassin asked for a summary of the operations and functions to be circulated to the email list. Ms. Ryan said that the committee looks at themselves as a support system for those working throughout the town. Councilman Clark felt that it would be an appropriate idea to revisit in July or August, this committee to see how they are faring. Mr. Clark was interested to know if there was a plan to coordinate with the town handbook. Councilwoman Hundt noted that it has been a year since there was an incident and that the committee has done great work in addressing it. Councilwoman Gold asked when the Code will be added to the Handbook. Mrs. Cleveland said that as soon as she has a copy of the final version it can be added in.

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

Resolution #55 of 2022: CRB Code of Contact and Incident Report – Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board approves the Code of Conduct and Incident Report as presented.

SIC

Mr. Bassin noted that Mr. Weiss was not able to be in attendance at the meeting but that he had sent the following report:

- **Solar:** *We'll come back to the Board in January with the recommendation--now blessed by Climate Smart, too--that Ancram spend \$7K for an analysis of how to implement more solar, get federal/state underwriting, decrease annual costs, and continue to move to sustainable energy.*
- **Water:** *James and Nan are conferring, and have sent stuff to Steve Winkley (sp?) for additional expertise on Next Steps.*
- **Pavilion:** *CTMale continuing to drag feet on completing site study. Steve et al will solicit feedback from others on USES for pavilion (in addition to Camp). While I know you are skeptical, and I like looking out my windows and seeing nothing but defunct farmland as much as the next guy, I think that development of Town assets is an essential part of a future with people under the age of 70. And can be done without turning Ancram into Rhinebeck.*

- **Housing:** *Thanks for the Mike Tucker intro. I suspect a nonprofit RUPCO or a for-profit alternative is likely going to look for a scale of 100 units, not a dozen, and the municipal water/sewage issue is daunting. Maybe we need to house our blue/pink-collar workers in Hudson? I do hope that Bonnie gets a meeting of her-Dave-you-me with the Salisbury CT (etc.) leadership, and I left it that I would pick back up with Mike AFTER the County Housing Coordinator is in place in January.*

Councilwoman Hundt remarked on her work with the RoeJan Task Force. Councilwoman Gold noted that she had taken a tour through the former Roe Jan School with a company called Rupco and that the company was enthusiastic about the property for possible low income and affordable housing. Councilman Boice noted that while affordable housing is a great idea, he had issue with looking at being involved with setting in place a plan in another town. He stressed that Ancram needs affordable housing in Ancram, especially for attracting volunteers for the Fire Department. Mr. Boice said that there needs to be more effort in finding a way to keep young people here. Councilwoman Hundt noted that while this plan would be in another town, it is a start and Ancram could be next. She also noted that Habitat is looking to make changes and they plan to work with assessors regarding assessment and taxes which are an issue with affordable housing. Mr. Boice pointed out that taxes are a must when it comes to home ownership.

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

Resolution #56 of 2023: ARPA Grant for ANHNA Food Program – Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board grants \$13,000 in ARPA funds to ANHNA to support the cost of ANHNA labor for the ANHNA weekly food delivery program.

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

Resolution #57 of 2023: ARPA Grant for ANHNA Heating & Car/Home Repair Program – Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board grants \$10,000 in ARPA funds to ANHNA to support the ANHNA heating and car/home repair program.

Supervisors Report

1) Financial Report – November fee income and fines came in stronger than expected and improved our year-end financial projection by about \$20,000 to about \$1,490,000. At year-end we will have about \$1,240,000 invested in T-bills maturing in January, March and April 2023, yielding between 3.5% and 3.8%, and about \$250,000 in cash. Given the possibility of continued high inflation, volatile interest rates, supply chain uncertainties, food and fuel cost increases and the situation in Ukraine, the economic environment is still unpredictable and could negatively impact our costs and revenues in 2023. We should plan to continue to be cautious and conservative in our financial management until we see how things evolve, and what happens with costs, sales tax and mortgage tax revenues over the next year.

2) Committee for Respectful Behavior – The CRB has presented a Draft Code of Conduct for Town employees and volunteers and an Incident Report to be used to report violations of the Code of Conduct. We will consider both for approval at our 12/15 meeting.

3) ANHNA ARPA Grants – ANHNA has requested that we provide \$13,000 in 2023 for the driver needed to pick up food each week from the Food Bank in Albany. While we have already agreed to use ARPA funds to support this activity, we will approve this again, and provide the funds in January following our January Town Board. In addition, ANHNA has requested that we consider using ARPA funds to support their winter heating and car/home repair program. We have about \$12,500 of unallocated ARPA funds left, so we could consider providing \$10,000 to ANHNA for this program.

4) Cybersecurity – The Tech Committee is looking into how to improve cybersecurity at Town Hall and will develop a plan that will be circulated to employees, volunteers and the general public via Ancramemail.

5) Purple Heart Community – NYS Senator Daphne Jordan came to the Ancram Town Hall Wednesday, December 7 to present the Town with a Purple Heart Community Proclamation. Monica and I met with her and thanked her for visiting with us and presenting the Proclamation.

6) Barking Dogs in Ancram – I recently received another complaint about dogs barking in the center of Ancram and have asked the Town Dog Control Officer to determine if there is any basis for the Town to take legal action against the owner of the dogs.

7) Annual Document Review – I have gotten a few suggested edits and comments on the Organizational Resolutions and Fee Schedule, but nothing on the Purchasing Policy, Financial Process Manual or Employee Handbook. We will consider the 2023 Organizational Resolutions for adoption at our 12/15 Town Board meeting, and will consider the rest of the documents in January, and the Employee Handbook once we have revised the Handbook for changes in NYS law and have incorporated CRB documents

Supervisor Bassin announced that Planning Board Chairman John Ingram has tendered his resignation from the Planning Board. The Deputy, Joe Crocco, has agreed to replace him. The 1st alternate is Colleen Lutz and she will be moved to the Planning Board as a full member, assuming Mr. Ingram's unexpired term. Councilwoman Gold asked if she could possibly meet Mr. Crocco and look at his credentials as well as get the thoughts of the other PB members. Mr. Bassin said that there wouldn't be a problem with that. Carol Falcetti made the suggestion that the town board appoint Erin Robertson as the deputy chair. Mr. Bassin responded that it is up to the members of the Planning Board, not the Town Board, to choose the deputy chair.

Ms. Hundt asked that the Housing Task Force committee be added to the list of committees in the Organizational meeting.

Town Board Members

Councilman Boice asked how the dog control officer was making out with the noise in the center of town. Mr. Boice stressed that this issue needs to be addressed. Mr. Bassin said that he has had conversations with Rich Prentice the dog control officer and that he is waiting on a deposition to be filled out by James Kennedy. He cannot proceed until he has this.

Councilwoman Gold asked about possibly getting town email accounts. Mr. Bassin said that most offices are using town email accounts and that if she would like one, he can put her into contact with Zenpoint Media to have one set in place.

Highway Report

Diesel Fuel Used: 689 gallons

Gasoline Fuel Used: 409 gallons

-We have also been hauling gravel to replenish our stockpile.

-We have been getting the plow and sanding equipment ready for the winter season.

-We conducted snow and/or ice operations on 3 separate days.

-We have been doing some badly needed tree trimming on Hall Hill, 5 Roses and Over Mt. Rds.

-Checked roads for down trees and limbs following numerous high wind events.

-We continue to go over our trucks and equipment to insure readiness for storm events.

-We only received one bid from A Colarusso and Sons following our advertisement for bids for 2023 road materials. I recommend the board accept the bid.

-The 2024 plow truck approved at the October meeting has been ordered.

A motion was made by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilman Clark to approve the A. Colarusso and Sons road materials bid for 2023. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Town Clerk

The town clerk reported that the taxes are being readied to go out. She also noted that she is working on a very large FOIL request that has come in that amounts to 40 years of documents. She is in contact with the lawyer John Lyons to help direct this job.

The following resolution was offered by Councilwoman Hundt and seconded by Councilwoman Gold and moved for adoption. Resolution carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Resolution #58 of 2022: Columbia Greene Humane Society – Resolved, that the Ancram Town Supervisor is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Columbia Greene Humane Society to provide support for the Ancram Dog Control Officer in the event that we need to house lost dogs for a period of time.

Mr. Bassn suggested at this time that the Town Board pass the 2023 Organizational resolutions. Ms. Cleveland suggested that the board wait until the January meeting because the resolutions are for 2023. The board agreed that it was a good idea to wait until January.

Mr. Bassin announced that the swearing in of the two judges will take place on January 1, 2023 at 5:00pm. (Subsequently rescheduled to January 8, 2023 at 5 pm)

Mr. Bassin noted to the board that the Iron Star Project has decided to withdraw all of their applications from the town Planning Board.

A motion was made by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilman Clark to approve the budget adjustments, approve the warrant and pay the bills. Motion carried.

A motion was made at this time by Supervisor Bassin and seconded by Councilman Clark to adjourn the meeting to executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular individual. Motion carried.

Executive session

Following the board returning from executive session, a motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Gold to adjourn the Town Board meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk

