

Town of Ancram Town Board Regular Meeting
August 17, 2023 In Person Board Meeting

Present: Town Supervisor Art Bassin Town Councilman Hugh Clark
Town Councilman David Boice Town Councilwoman Amy Gold
Town Councilwoman Bonnie Hundt Town Highway Supervisor James Miller
Deputy Town Clerk Ruth Wittlinger

And an audience of 24 residents

Absent: Town Clerk Monica Cleveland

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. Supervisor Bassin asked if there were any items on the agenda from which any board member needed to recuse themselves from. No one had any recusals.

The minutes of the July 15, 2023, Town Board meeting were approved as written. Motion made by Councilman Boice and 2nd by Councilwoman Hundt.

Supervisor Bassin reported on the outcome of Grievance Day. He stated that there were 7 Article 7 Hearings filed and 4 SCAR Hearings filed. Article 7s are presented in front of the NYS Supreme Court. The SCAR Hearings are held at the County Level for resolution.

Planning and Zoning Department- At the September 2023 meeting there will be a presentation of the re-formatted forms and check lists for approval of variances. JL Hoffman states that there is a proposed fee schedule change to be approved. It was stated that some of the other uses include not just animals or agriculture but includes the use of storage pods on property included within the Residential Accessory Use fee.

The discussion moved to the Residential Accessory Use platform. Councilman Boice asked if it only pertained to chickens. The vote was postponed to September 2023 meeting so that paperwork can be circulated to better understand this proposed revision

There was a question from the audience, Jim Stickles, asked where the background materials for this resolution are. Supervisor Bassin explained that they would be circulated to the Town Board members.

Supervisor Bassin stated that the through the Building Department has increased significantly this year. The amount r fees could come close to the collection of \$75,000 this year.

O&G Mining appeal – The Town ZEO has notified O&G Industries that their mining privileges lapsed due to no mining activity for 2 years.. O&G disagrees. They have appealed to the town ZBA, and it will be heard on August 28, 2023. Determination will be made later in the fall.

The water study of Ancram Hamlet has been completed and outlined ways for individual property owners to improve water flow from low yielding wells.

Town Board Member Reports:

Councilwoman Hundt reported on the Housing Committee. She stated that the committee is moving to do a community land study to maybe introduce cluster housing (6 homes on 3 acre parcels). This brings to light problems such as zoning and water. Habitat for Humanity has 3 different models of houses that they are building now. A young lady in the audience stated that she is living in the house in Ancramdale. The overall construction is not the best and all the major systems have had problems. Councilwoman Hundt declared that she does not work for Habitat but they have learned plenty of new strategies from their previous housing builds and have a new approach to community housing.

Councilwoman Gold reported that she is still working with Copake, Taghkanic and Gallatin to keep the CMH Rapid Care facility in Copake operating. Finding it difficult to staff the business. There is still an ongoing discussion of the Route 82/Route 7 intersection for redesigning. The audience at this meeting felt that NYS DOT will not do anything on this issue until something tragic happens.

Councilman Boice made everyone aware that there are no lines painted on County Route 7 past the Firehouse and out to Gallatin. He suggested that there be an electric meter on the charging station in the parking lot at Town Hall. The fire company is doing a survey of the roads in the town. Looking at driveway and pull offs to be used for emergencies.

Councilman Clark – passed; had no comments

Camp and Pool report – Camp is over ended 8/11/23 with cook out at Woody Baxt's farm. Pool was the highlight of camp – the pool will be open until 8/31/23.

Supervisor Bassin stated that the year end projection will leave the town with about \$1 million fund balance to begin the 2024 year. There is uncertainty in the amount of sales tax and mortgage tax that will be collected until the end of the year. Need to be cautious about spending.

Jim Miller, Highway Superintendent reports that the town got reimbursed \$189,000 in CHIPS funds. There is still \$130,000 left to apply for. The crew has been busy clearing roads from downed trees after all the latest rainstorms. Town cleanup day is September 16, 2023 from 9 am to 12 pm.

Supervisor Bassin reports that Monica Cleveland, Town Clerk, has indicated that the Town will be able to collect a \$25.00 one day officiant fee for performing marriages. Motion made by Councilwoman Hundt and seconded by Councilman Clark to approve this resolution. All in favor.

Supervisor Bassin would like to propose appointing a Building Manager for the Town Hall. He has proposed to appoint Deputy Highway Superintendent, Brian Ingles, to the position with a stipend of \$4,000 per year.

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Motion made by Councilman Boice, seconded by Councilman Clark to approve. All in favor.

Budget adjustments were approved by a motion made by Councilwoman Hundt and seconded by Councilwoman Gold. All in Favor.

Motion made by Councilwoman Gold and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt to approve the warrants and pay the bills. All in favor.

Town Board approved a motion for Chief Court Clerk Wittlinger and Deputy Court Clerk Weigl to attend the Annual Conference to the NYSMACC.

2024 Tentative Budget Public Hearing will be held at 6:45 PM before the September 21, 2023 public board meeting.

At 7:55 PM Supervisor Bassin made a motion for the Town Board to go into Executive session to discuss employment record of a particular employee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Clark.

At 8:20 PM a motion was made by Supervisor Bassin and seconded by Councilman Clark to adjourn the Executive Session. All in favor.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bassin to compensate ZEO/CEO/Building Inspector Ed Ferratto for the extra hours he has worked so far in 2023 and going forward. Motion seconded by Councilman Clark. Unanimously approved.

At 8:25 PM motion was made by councilman Clark to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Gold. Unanimously approved.

Next meeting will be held Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM preceded by a Public Hearing on the 2024 Operating budget at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted-

Ruth C. Wittlinger
Deputy Town Clerk
Town of Ancram

