

**Town of Ancram  
Town Board  
Public Hearing Tentative Budget  
September 21, 2023**

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

---

The Public Hearing for the 2024 Tentative Budget was called to order at 6:45 pm by Supervisor Bassin.

Mr. Bassin gave an overview of the Tentative Budget. He noted that the budget is projected to stay flat to the 2023 tax levy. There will be a 3-3.5% increase in salaries.

Some items that are budgeted to increase in 2024 over the 2023 budget are as follows: \$15,000 for attorneys, \$10,000 for health insurance, \$12,000 increase to the retirement fund, \$7,000 increase to the electric and propane funds and \$9,000 for CRB training.

\$112,500 of the fund balance will be used to keep taxes flat in this budget.

Supervisor Bassin asked if there were any questions from any of the board members. Councilwoman Hundt asked about the salary increases and what it would add to the budget. Mr. Bassin said that if the salaries increased by 3.5%, it will add \$20,000 in expense to the budget. If the salaries are increased by 7%, the increase to the budget will be \$40,000.00.

Councilman Boice asked why the town is not decreasing the budget to drop taxes. He noted that if the town has an abundance of funds and are “giving money away”, why the town can’t drop taxes. Mr. Bassin said that the town is preparing to purchase \$600,000 in highway equipment in the next few years. Mr. Bassin said that the town will need the money for this.

Councilwoman Hundt asked about the increase of health insurance. Mr. Bassin said that the projection is a for a 15% increase.

Mr. Bassin noted that he has met with the Highway Superintendent Miller and that the town will put off the \$150,000 proposed backhoe for a few years given the uncertainty of the economy.

There being no more comments, a motion was made by Councilwoman Hundt and seconded by Councilwoman Gold to adjourn the public hearing. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland, RMC, Ancram Town Clerk