

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
October 19, 2023**

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

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gold and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion carried.

CSCTF

Colleen Lutz of the CSCTF gave the following report:

Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Planning (CARP)-

We had a meeting 8/25/2023, I was the only one to attend with Kelsey West.

We went over the CSRP tool that we completed with Kelsey in 2021. Several things were updated on the tool, as we had completed it.

Upcoming CARP events: Audrey Kropp CCE will be sending out messages

Workshop October 27th, 2023- Columbia Green Community College- 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm. We can have up to 6 municipal representatives from the town, ideally from the town board, highway department, CSCTF, CAC, Fire Company.

Consolidated Funding Application- Submitted 8/10/2023, for the Salt Shed Project. Still Waiting....

Solstice- We have 21 sign ups, our goal is 30. They have collected almost \$900 in sign up bonuses. The payment has been received.

Southern Columbia Repair Café- Ancram CSCTF was a co-sponsor of the café held at the Roe Jan Library on September 30th, 2023 11:00am – 3:00pm. This was the first one in southern Columbia County and had over 60 repairs.

CSCTF meeting was held October 15th, 2023. We had two guests, zero people attended on Zoom. The minutes will be published on the website as soon as they are available.

Upcoming CSCTF Events and Items

-Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley (PCAHV) grant opportunity for building decarbonization funding. The grant is due to November 15th, 2023. The grant amount is up to \$100,000 with 0% match! I would like permission to pursue the application process for a grant to construct solar panels on the town highway garage. We had received an estimate for the town highway facility which was \$96,200 (9/2022). This information can be used to support our application.

-The affordable housing committee and CSCTF will be holding a Making Housing More Affordable Fair at the Roe Jan Library. The date and time TBD, but will hopefully be scheduled for the end of 2023 or early 2024. This event will have information about affordable housing units, lending options for homebuyers, Clean Heat and Cooling and Efficiency Upgrades, and Community Solar. We are hoping to have support from the other CSCTF in the Southern Columbia Region.

-The CSCTF would like to again partner with the Town Highway garage to offer Christmas tree disposal through mulching. If residents cannot dump the tree in the forest and need to dispose of the tree, mulching can be a better alternative to burning the tree. We would be happy to facilitate advertisement should the highway department wish to partner with the project.

-The 2024 Climate Carnival planning has begun! The first planning meeting was held today. The Ancram CSCTF will be helping with planning and will be working on ideas present at the carnival. The event will be held at the fairgrounds.

Councilwoman Hundt said that she did not see the downside of applying for the grant for solar panels on the Town Barn. Councilman Boice asked about the roof on the garage building and thought that previously it had been concluded that the building couldn't hold them. Highway Superintendent Miller said that when the building has had heavy snow the roof has had to be shoveled off. He worried about not being able to do so if there were solar panels on the roof as well as the added weight of panels. Councilwoman Hundt asked if the panels had to be on the roof and could they be free standing on the property. Ms. Lutz said that she could find this out. Mr. Miller and Councilman Boice didn't know where free standing panels could be placed on the property as there is limited land. The question was raised as to where the funding for this grant came from. Ms. Lutz said that the grant was funded through a 501c3. Mr. Jim Stickle asked if the grant is for \$100,000 but the project costs \$200,000, where would the town get this money from. He felt that there has to be a catch somewhere. Mr. Jack Lindsey said that he has had experience with a large number of different types of grants in his work and volunteer experience and that... it is very common for a grant to be given and that if the monies were not completely expended they could then be returned. This is always spelled out in the grant language so that there are no confusion for the grant maker or the grant recipient. Ms. Donna Hoyt remarked that she has never heard of a grant that pays only partial exploratory project costs and then allow the return of the money that is left but the project not completed. She asked how long the committee has known about this grant that has to be applied for prior to the next town board meeting. Ms. Lutz says they found out about the grant opportunity about a month ago. Ms. Madeline Israel said that the town won't know if they will even get the grant unless they apply for it.

The Following resolution was offered by Supervisor Bassin and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt and moved for adoption. Resolution approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #43 of 2023: Grant for Solar at Town Garage – Resolved, that Colleen Lutz, Co-Chair of the Ancram CSCTF is authorized to apply for a \$100,000 solar grant for the exploration of and possible installation of solar panels at the Town Garage, and it is further Resolved that the

Town Supervisor is authorized to submit a letter of support for this grant application from the Ancram Town Board.

SIC

The SIC had nothing to report this month.

FAC

Anne Rader gave a report of the last FAC meeting. She noted that the committee spoken about the possible deterioration of economic conditions and that the town needs to proceed with caution. Ms. Donna Hoyt questioned the \$500,000 the town had set up a committee to look into ideas to spend it. Mr. Bassin said that the highway department has needed equipment and that this will take up much of that money. He noted that the SIC will continue though to look at strategic investments that the town should be looking into.

Supervisors Report

1) Financial Report – Another normal financial month. The YE 2023 fund balance projection (cash plus T Bills) is \$1,182,000, up about \$60,000 from our previous projection, primarily due to moving proposed spending on housing (\$35,000) and the grant to Ancram Opera House (\$67,500) to 2024, offset by a \$20,000 reduction in expected NYSERDA grant revenues, lower mortgage tax revenues and higher legal expenses. Cash and T Bills at the end of September totaled about \$1,361,000. As of 9/30 our T-Bill portfolio was at \$1,185,000, and cash on hand was about \$176,000. We have a treasury bill for \$250,000 maturing in mid-October which we will use to pay bills, including a second payment on the sand/salt shed. I anticipate we will be able to continue to invest \$1 million in short term (1, 2, 3 month) T- Bills over the rest of the year. Yields on the 1, 2 and 3 month T-Bills are still around 5.3-5.4%. Our year-to-date interest earned on T-Bills is about \$56,000 compared to a full year budget of \$30,000. If yields stay steady, we could earn another \$15,000 in interest by the end of the year. Building Department activity continues to be strong, with fees continuing to exceed plan. We continue on track to hit about \$75,000 in building permit fees this year, compared to a budget of \$45,000. Court Fines in September were a negative \$2,700 because we paid NYS more than we had collected. Through September YTD, we are about \$20,000 under a court fee budget of \$25,000, and are likely to end the year with a \$15,000 negative variance.

2) 2024 Preliminary Budget – We will have a public hearing on the 2024 Preliminary Budget at the 10/19 Town Board meeting. The 2024 Preliminary budget targets a 2024 tax levy flat to 2023 at about \$714,000. Compared to the 2023 original budget, major proposed 2024 cost increases of about \$71,000 include salary increases in the 3-3.4% range (\$20,000), attorney fee increases (\$15,000), NYS retirement system costs (\$12,000), health insurance (\$10,000), utilities (\$5,000), CRB training (\$5,000), court costs (\$2500) and cemeteries (\$2000), and are offset by about \$82,500 of cost reductions, including reductions in building equipment (\$30,000), contingent (\$30,000), assessor (\$20,000), ZRC (\$2,500) and central data (\$2000). Revenues are budgeted to decrease about \$4,000 due to a decrease in NYSERDA grant revenues of \$71,000 offset by revenue increases in interest (\$30,000), building department fees \$15,000, sales tax (\$12,500), planning fees (\$2,500) and franchise fees (\$2,500). To keep 2024 taxes flat at the

\$714,000 level, we have budgeted \$103,000 in fund balance, which is an increase of \$5,000 from the allocation of fund balance in the 2023 budget. While we can and will keep town taxes flat again in 2024 by using fund balance, we may have to deal with a weaker sales and mortgage tax environment over the next few years, factor that we may need to factor into our capital spending plans and consider postponing some major strategic investments, or getting loans or grants to help fund essential projects. Our projected 2024 capital spending totals \$552,500 (a new plow truck - \$300,000; two new truck bodies - \$150,000, Housing Committee - \$35,000 and Ancram Opera House - \$67,500) which will reduce our fund balance to \$629,500 at the end of 2024. Major unknowns that will have to be resolved before we finalize our 2024 budget are what 2024 sales and mortgage taxes are likely to be, how much T- Bill interest we can reasonably expect and how much health insurance will go up. We are assuming 2024 sales tax revenues will increase about 3% along with inflation, and T Bills will continue to yield in the 5-5.5% range for short term investments, but may adjust these assumptions as we see actual results over the next month and see that happens with the possible federal government shutdown and levels of inflation. We will do a public hearing on the Final Budget in November.

- 3) O&G Industries – No new news on this. The ZBA will meet with O&G later in October to start the review process.
- 4) Revaluation – We will get an update on our Article 7s and SCARs from Attorney Jon Tingley in executive session at the 10/19 Board meeting.
- 5) Planning Application Process Review – Nan Stolzenburg indicates she has completed her process and has distributed the new forms. Next step is to start using the forms, see how they work and make any necessary tweaks.
- 6) BAR Reappointments - BAR appointments terminate as of 9/30 of each year, so we will consider reappointing Frederique Abramovici for a second 5 year term, and Joe Brown for a second one year term as an alternate member.
- 7) Columbia County Appointments – We will consider two County appointments - Suzan Flamm as Ancram’s representative on the County CSCTF. And Steve Savarese as the Region 8 (Copake, Hillsdale, Ancram) representative to the County Planning Board.
- 8) Accessory Residential Use Fee Reduction - Please review the list of specific fees included as accessory residential use fees that J Hoffman distributed last month, and be prepared to propose any fees in that list that we should exclude from the fee reduction,
- 9) Pro-Housing Community Designation – Jane Meigs has proposed a few edits which have been included in this resolution, which we will consider for adoption at our 10/19 meeting. NYS has established a Pro-Husing Communities program to give communities who qualify for the program preferential access to certain grant funds.
- 10) NYS Mandatory Training – We have scheduled three sessions of the mandatory preventing sexual harassment and workplace violence training, which will be conducted by the Columbia County trainer.

Mr. Bassin asked the Board’s thoughts on the Enhanced Enforcement Patrols in the coming year. Councilman Clark said that he was willing for the town to try going without it. Councilman Boice and Councilwoman Gold agreed with Councilman Clark. Councilwoman Hundt agreed as well, feeling that there was no return for the money spent. Town Judge Cathy Redlich, on zoom, noted that the decrease in fines has to do with a change at the DA’s office and the plea process.

Mr. Bassin said that he will continue to make tweaks to the 2024 budget and circulate it. The vote will be at the November meeting.

Mr. Bassin reported that the ZBA will start its review the O&G Mine appeal on Monday.

Councilwoman Hundt noted that attorneys' fees can be lowered possibly in 2024. Mr. Bassin said that the Board has to remember that there is still litigation in process for the 2023 revaluation.

Town Board

Councilman Clark presented the town board members with proposed Local Law #6 of 2023. He read from the following memo:

The Zoning Revisions Committee (ZRC) was charged to bring all town land use regulations into consonance with the 2019 Comprehensive Plan, thereby acting to achieve the 2030 vision for Ancram.

Fulfilling that charge requires completion of two tasks. One task is to implement guidance about zoning contained in the 2019 Comp Plan. The second task is to consider adjustments suggested by the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Building Department, and community members.

On behalf of the ZRC, this memo addresses features of Proposed LL #6 of 2023, a proposed "Local Law Repealing and Replacing the Town of Ancram Zoning Law previously adopted and dated August 2022, and replacing it with a new Town of Ancram Zoning Law" and related documents.

Attached are:

- Resolution of the Town of Ancram Town Board introducing Local Law #6 of 2023;*
- SEQRA Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF), Part I (Project & Setting) (13 pages--8 of which do not apply to this action);*
- SEQRA FEAF Section F (Additional Information About the Action) Narrative (3 pages).*

I am also providing to you separately by email proposed Local Law #6 of 2023 in pdf format. Due to its volume, printed copies of this proposal will be limited, but will be available in the main meeting room and small conference room at the Ancram Town Hall. The pdf of proposed Local Law #6 of 2023 will also be available on the Town of Ancram website.

To get a sense of context and to more easily determine what was refined, I suggest you first read SEQRA FEAF Section F, which provides a comprehensive overview. Then, as you read through the "marked up" pdf of proposed Local Law #6 of 2023, look for refinements in red type.

Your packet does not yet contain:

- *FEAF Part II, Identification of Potential Project Impacts;*

**FEAF Part III, Eval of Magnitude/Importance of Project Impacts & Determination of Significance*

**Potential Negative Declaration;*

**Environmental Notice Bulletin SEQRA Notice Publication Form.*

All will be drafted by Nan Stolzenburg and delivered to the TB later in the review/approval process.

Next steps for the Ancram Town Board are:

**Tonight, adopt the Introductory Resolution, including classifying as Type I action; declare TB as lead agency; refer to CCPB & Ancram PB; schedule public hearing; direct Town Clerk to post notices.*

**Subsequently, review & approve FEAF Part I and Section F; conduct public hearing; review CCPB & PB responses; review & act on FEAF Part II, Part III, Neg Dec, SEQRA Notice Pub, and...Vote.*

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

Resolution #44 of 2023: Introducing Local Law No. 6 of 2023, a proposed "Local Law Repealing and Replacing the Town of Ancram Zoning Law previously adopted and dated August 2022, and replacing it with a new Town of Ancram Zoning Law. "

Whereas:

1. This resolution introduces a proposed new local law (LL No. 6 of 2023) that amends various sections of the Town of Ancram Zoning Law (the "Zoning Law").
2. The zoning amendments are proposed in the form of a Local Law pursuant to the authority and power granted to the Town Board and the Town by Articles 2 and 3 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law and by Article 2 of the New York State Statute of Local Governments.
3. The zoning law amendments in this local law are proposed to further implement the 2019 Town of Ancram Comprehensive Plan that established the need and direction for further protecting the unique environment in the Town, and to further the vision and goals established by the Community.
4. The Town's Zoning Revisions Committee (ZRC) thoroughly discussed all proposed language in coordination with the Town's Planner.
5. Pursuant to New York State Municipal Home Rule Law § 20, Local Law No. 6 of 2023 as described herein was received by each member of the Town Board prior to this meeting via email, and the proposed Local Law shall be deemed to be on the desk of each member of the Town Board as of tonight's Town Board meeting.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

Section A. For the reasons set forth in this Resolution, and pursuant to New York State Municipal Home Rule § 20 and Article XII of the Town of Ancram Zoning Law, the Town Board hereby introduces Town of Ancram "Local Law No. 6 of 2023, Local Law Repealing and Replacing the Town of Ancram Zoning Law previously adopted and dated August 2022, and replacing it with a new Town of Ancram Zoning Law. "

Section B. Pursuant to provisions of SEQRA the Town Board hereby determines to classify the adoption of the proposed new local law (the "proposed action" in SEQRA parlance) as a Type I

action [see, New York State Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), Article 8; 6 New York Code of Rules & Regulations (NYCRR), Part 617.4(b)(2)].

Section C. Further pursuant to SEQRA, the Town Board further determines that it will be the only agency with approval authority over the proposed action. Accordingly, the Town Board hereby declares itself to be the Lead Agency for the conduct of the environmental review of the proposed action under SEQRA. The Town Board further identifies the Town of Ancram Planning Board and the Columbia County Planning Board as interested agencies.

Section D. The Town Board directs Nan Stolzenburg, AICP, the Town's planning consultant, to prepare for the Town Board's review, an Environmental Assessment Form (EAF), Part 1, and all other documents pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) for adoption.

Section E. The Town Board hereby directs that the proposed local law be referred to the Columbia County Planning Board for its review and for an advisory opinion pursuant to Section 239-m of the New York State General Municipal Law. The Town Board directs the Town Clerk to make the referral in conformity with the applicable provisions of New York State General Municipal Law § 239-m.

Section F. The Town Board hereby directs that the proposed amendments to the Zoning Law (LL No. 6 of 2023) be referred to the Town of Ancram Planning Board for its review and for an advisory opinion pursuant to Town of Ancram Zoning Law Article XII entitled "Amendments," and subsection B entitled "Advisory Report by Planning Board." The Planning Board shall deliver its response to this referral to the Town Board within forty-five (45) days of the date of this referral. The Town Board directs the Town Clerk to make the referral in Zoning Law Article XII (B).

Section G. In accordance with New York State Municipal Home Rule Law § 20(5), the Town Board hereby schedules a Public Hearing on [November 16] , 2023, at [6:45]_ p.m. at to be held at the Town of Ancram Town Hall, located at 1416 County Route 7, Ancram NY 12502 to hear public comments on the proposed local law. The Town Board directs the Town Clerk to provide notice to the public of the public hearing in accordance with the requirements for same set forth in the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law, and Town of Ancram Zoning Law Article XII(C) and directs the Town Clerk to cause publication of a legal notice in the Town's official newspaper not less than ten (10) calendar days prior to the Public Hearing

Section H. The Town Board also directs the Town Clerk to send said public hearing notice to all adjacent municipalities not less than ten (10) calendar days prior to the Public Hearing.

Section I. The Town Board also directs the Town Clerk to post a copy of the proposed Local Law on the Town's web site, and to make a paper copy of the proposed Local Law available for review by the public at the Town of Ancram Town Hall, located at 1416 County Route 7, Ancram NY 12502.

Section J. The Town Board hereby directs the Town's Planning consultant to prepare for the Town Board's review at a later date a SEQRA EAF Part 2 for the Town Board's review and consideration.

Councilwoman Gold reported that the Copake Rapid Care is looking to reopen the first of the new year. There has been a donor designation fund set up for contributions.

Councilwoman Gold continues to work on the route 7 and 82 intersection, specifically making the slip through by the monument park a one way. She is still in the process of setting up a meeting.

Councilwoman Hundt reported on the Affordable Housing Committee. They have had meetings with Chris Brown, Michelle Toolo and Marissa Cody (of the Land Conservancy) She said that after much research, the committee found that setting up a 501c3 will take a very long time and that the committee is looking instead to work with the County's housing committee and falling under their umbrella. Mr. Dave Hall said that there was concern that they may not get funding if they do not join the County. Ms. Hoyt asked if the land will be owned by the town specifically or by the homeowners. Ms. Hundt said that this will depend on how the program is set up. Mr. Terry Boyles asked if land can be found in Ancram for this project. He noted that a realtor he spoke to told him that land in Ancram is going for \$30,000 an acre. Ms. Hundt said that the committee is hoping the land will be donated. Ms. Hoyt said that the zoning pushes for a 60/40 use of the land. This in her opinion will work against the project. Ms. Hoyt said that the committee is looking at laws the Town of Copake has recently passed to change zoning for the specific project.

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

Resolution #45 of 2023: Pro-Housing Communities Resolution -

WHEREAS, the Town of Ancram believes that the lack of housing for New York residents of all ages and income levels negatively impacts the future of New York State's economic growth and community well-being;

WHEREAS, the housing crisis has negative effects at regional and local levels, we believe that every community must do their part to contribute to housing growth and benefit from the positive impacts a healthy housing market brings to communities;

WHEREAS, we believe that supporting housing production of all kinds in our community will bring multiple benefits, including increasing housing access and choices for current and future residents, providing integrated accessible housing options that meet the needs of people with sensory and mobility disabilities, bringing economic opportunities and vitality to our communities, and allowing workers at all levels to improve their quality of life through living closer to their employment opportunities;

WHEREAS, we believe that infill development, which develops vacant or under-utilized parcels within areas that are already largely developed, reduces sprawl, supports walkable communities, and provides significant environmental and public health benefits; and

WHEREAS, we believe that affirmatively furthering fair housing and reducing segregation is not only required by law, but is essential for keeping our community strong and vibrant;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Town of Ancram, in order to take positive steps to alleviate the housing crisis, adopts the Pro-Housing Communities pledge, which will have us endeavor to take the following important steps:

1. Streamlining permitting for multifamily housing, affordable housing, accessible housing, accessory dwelling units, and supportive housing.

2. Adopting policies that affirmatively further fair housing.
3. Incorporating regional housing needs into planning decisions.
4. Increasing development capacity for residential uses.
5. Enacting policies that encourage a broad range of housing development, including multifamily housing, affordable housing, accessible housing, accessory dwelling units, and supportive housing.
6. Enacting policies that encourage infill development which reduces sprawl, supports walkable communities, and preserves open space, agricultural land, and forested areas.

Highway Department

Diesel Fuel Used: 435 gallons

Gasoline Used: 401 gallons

*We finished our Roche Dr and Roche Lane paving project with assistance from the Towns of Clermont, Gallatin, Copake, Hillsdale and Northeast.

*We assisted Gallatin with a paving project.

*Roadside mowing is ongoing and Leaf blowing has begun to keep ditches and culvert pipes

*The beaver population has been busy causing flooding in 2 locations.

*We are getting the plow frames and sanders installed on the plow trucks in preparation for the upcoming winter season.

*Progress on Salt Shed: The precast walls were delivered and set in place 10/4. The rood is being done this week. We will still need to blacktop the floor before we can start stockpiling sand and salt. This should be done early November.

*I am still recovering from my surgery and still on crutches by have been back in the office daily mornings. I am due to get the cast off 11/10.

Town Clerks Report

The Town Clerk asked for those gathered to take a moment of silence for Caroline Garbarini. Ms. Garbarini served as the appointed Town Clerk for Ancram in 2003.

Ms. Cleveland gave a report on the 2023 interest collected on taxes: \$7,598.07

September Town Clerk fees collected were \$22.00

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hundt and seconded by Councilman Boice to approve the following budget adjustments, approve the warrants and pay the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

To: 1110.4 Court \$500.00, 1620.4 Buildings \$2,500.00, 1355.4 Assessors \$2,500.00, 7310.2C Pool Repairs \$2,000.00, 7020.4 Camp Busses \$2,250.00, 8010.42 Planning Consultant \$3,800.00.

From Fund Balance: \$13,550.00

The following resolution was offered by Councilwoman Gold and seconded by Councilman Boice and moved for adoption. Resolution carried unanimously.

Resolution #46 of 2023: BAR Reappointments – Resolved, that Frederique Abramovici be reappointed to a 5 year term on the Board of Assessment Review ending 9/30, 2028, and that Joe Brown be reappointed to a 1 year term as a temporary/alternate member of the Board of Assessment Review ending 9/30, 2024

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Gold and moved for adoption. Resolution carried unanimously.

Resolution #47 of 2023: 2023 Preliminary Budget - Resolved, that the 2024 Preliminary Budget is approved as presented, but that the \$2500 for Enhanced Enforcement Patrols in the Preliminary Budget be dropped from the Final 2024 Budget.

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

Resolution #48 of 2023: NYS Mandatory Training – Resolved, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to schedule mandatory annual preventing sexual harassment and workplace violence training and to enter into an agreement with the County of Columbia to provide this training.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Boice and moved for adoption. Resolution carried unanimously.

Resolution #49 of 2023: County Planning Board - Resolved, that the Town of Ancram recommends the reappointment of Steve Savarese to the Columbia County Planning Board as the Region 8 representative for a three year term.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt and moved for adoption. Resolution carried unanimously.

Resolution #50 of 2023: Community Rescue Squad – Resolved, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Community Rescue Squad for emergency medical and ambulance services for the Town of Ancram for 2024 at a cost of \$133,712, and to enter into a chargeback agreement with the County of Columbia to authorize the County to pay the Community Rescue Squad \$133,712 and include this expense as part of the 2024 annual County property tax charged to Ancram property owners.

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

Resolution #51 of 2023: Delta Dental - Resolved, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to enter into an agreement with Delta Dental to provide dental services to Town of Ancram employees who enroll in the Delta Dental program and agree to pay for these services.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Gold and moved for adoption. Resolution carried unanimously.

Resolution #52 of 2023: Residential Accessory Uses Fee Revision – Resolved, that the fee for special use permits for accessory residential use Agriculture-animals as hobby/home use be

reduced from \$500 to \$150 effective immediately, and that the renewal fee for this use be reduced to \$75.

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

Resolution #53 of 2023: Columbia County CSCTF – Resolved, that Suzan Flamm be reappointed as the Town of Ancram representative to the Columbia County Climate Smart Community Task force.

The following resolution was offered by Councilwoman Hundt and seconded by Councilman Clark and moved for adoption. Resolution carried unanimously.

Resolution #54 of 2023: Final Budget Public Hearing – Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board will hold a public hearing on the 2024 Final Budget on November 16 at 6:45 pm at the Ancram Town Hall.

Public Comments

Mr. Jack Lindsey asked that the town board look into a speaker system.

Ms. Donna Hoyt commented that she is upset with some misconceptions that have been printed in mailings to the town, specifically about the 2016 Town Board. She noted that in 2009 the board was more diverse then it is now, with herself the first woman to serve as a board member in Ancram and also a black man for Town Supervisor. She expressed that the most abuse she received during her time on the board as a registered Democrat was from her own party and that she does not like the politics in Ancram that are using gender, race and sexual preference in a campaign. She asked that the “nonsense” stop.

At this time, a motion was made by Supervisor Bassin and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt to adjourn to executive session to discuss current litigation as well as the employment histories of particular individuals. Motion carried.

*****Executive Session*****

A motion was made by Supervisor Bassin and seconded by Councilman Clark to leave executive session where current litigation as well as the employment histories of particular individuals was discussed, and reconvene in open session. Motion carried.

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

Resolution #55 of 2023: Romac Motion: Authorize the settlement of the Tax Assessment Review proceeding entitled Romac Construction Pension Fund v. Assessor by authorizing a reduction in assessed value for Parcel No. 213.-1-7.120 from \$1,800,000 to \$1,725,000 for the 2023 assessment roll, with RPTL 727 to apply, and with a waiver of interest on any refunds due if paid within 60 days of service of a certified copy of the consent judgment.

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

Resolution #56 of 2023: Van Wagner Motion 1: Authorize the settlement of the Tax Assessment Review proceeding entitled Van Wagner v. Assessor with respect to Parcel 197.1-1-2 by authorizing a reduction in assessed value from \$304,900 to \$285,000 for the 2023 assessment roll, with RPTL 727 to apply, and with a waiver of interest on any refunds due if paid within 60 days of service of a certified copy of the consent judgment.

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

Resolution #57 of 2023: Van Wagner Motion 2: Authorize the settlement of the Tax Assessment Review proceeding entitled Van Wagner v. Assessor with respect to Parcel 196.-1-8.220 by authorizing a reduction in assessed value from \$462,000 to \$342,000 for the 2023 assessment roll, with RPTL 727 to apply, and with a waiver of interest on any refunds due if paid within 60 days of service of a certified copy of the consent judgment.

There being no more business, a motion was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Boice to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland, RMC
Ancram Town Clerk