

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
March 21, 2024**

Present:	Supervisor James MacArthur	Councilman David Boice
	Councilwoman Bonnie Hundt	Councilwoman Amy Gold
	Councilwoman Colleen Lutz	Town Clerk Monica Cleveland

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

Mr. MacArthur asked if there were any member of the town board who needed to recuse themselves from any item on the agenda. There were none.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Lutz and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt to approve the minutes of the February meeting and placed on the record with the following amendments:

- Addition of a report from Councilwoman Hundt as read at the meeting regarding the housing fair.
 - The removal of Michele Hinchey's name being mentioned by Councilwoman Gold as the town reaching out to her office in regards to the intersection project in Ancram
 - The addition of Councilwoman Hundt stating in regards to the Registered Herald article about Ancram, that while she did speak to the reporter, she agreed with Councilwoman Gold that the reference to feeling unsafe was not something any of us told her.
 - The correction of the name Rueger as it is misspelled.
- Motion carried unanimously.

The supervisor gave the following report:

Tin Smith House/Intersection

After reaching out to the owner of the Tin Smith house and getting verbal confirmation that he would be open to selling the property, I spoke to an appraiser to have them go look at the house. Once I have something firm on paper, I will share it with the Town Board

County Report

During my meetings at the County level, we were informed that the sales tax number for the first quarter is down 3.6% and mortgage tax is down 40% for the year to date.

Escrow Law

Last month I circulated the 2004 Escrow Law to the Planning, Zoning and Town Boards as well as the building department. I have yet to receive any edits or comments. I am setting up a meeting with our Town Clerk, Steve Olyha and Joe Crocco to discuss possible changes to the law to make it more user friendly. I ask that if any Town Board Members or Planning and Zoning Board members have comments to please let me know.

Pavilion

The pavilion project continues to move forward. I will defer to Mr. Olyha and that committee to report on the progress that they have made.

ZRC and Planning Board Members

We have received a resignation letter from Mr. Bob Roche for his seat on the Planning Board and the Zoning Revisions Committee. We thank Mr. Roche for his years of service. Mr. Donald Tasch will now take the unexpired seat on Mr. Roche which will end in 2025. We will advertise an open Planning Board Alternate seat. We also seek someone to take the seat of Mr. Roche on the Zoning Revisions Committee.

Budget Adjustment

I am asking that we move \$8,000.00 from the Fund Balance into 7110.4 Parks to cover the cost of the replacement pipe that runs under the ballfield.

Coffee Hour

My next coffee meet and greet with the Supervisor will be held on April 13, 2024. 10-11 at the Ancram Little Store. 11:15-12:15 at the Farmers Wife.

Resolution #15 of 2024: RESOLVED: The Town Board of the Town of Ancram does hereby ask Mr. Edward Feratto, Town of Ancram ZEO/CEO to hire the Town of Ancram Engineering firm to do a structural study on the property known as the "Tin Smith House".

Resolution offered by Councilwoman Hundt and seconded by Councilwoman Lutz.

Aye: 5 Nay: 0

Mr. MacArthur noted that there will be a roadside cleanup day on April 20 & 21, 2024. Bags will be available for those who wish to participate.

Resolution #16 of 2024: Support for the New York State Assembly and Senate to Pass a Strong Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (A.5322-A/S.4246-A) and Expand the State's Bottle Bill (A.6353/S.237-B)

WHEREAS, packaging makes up approximately 40 percent of the waste in New York State, and

WHEREAS, managing packaging waste costs New York taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars annually, and

WHEREAS, some packaging is not recyclable and reusable and refillable packaging systems are not readily available, and

WHEREAS, plastic causes serious pollution including litter and use of toxic chemicals, and

WHEREAS, companies that produce packaging should help bear the costs of packaging waste, not just taxpayers and

WHEREAS, enacting the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act, as drafted in the New York Assembly A.5322-A and the New York Senate S.4246-A, would reduce waste, increase recycling rates, create jobs, reduce toxicity in products, provide millions of dollars in savings for local governments and taxpayers, and lower greenhouse gas emissions, and

WHEREAS, the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act should work in tandem with and supplement New York State's Returnable Container Act, and

WHEREAS, New York's Returnable Container Act should be modernized to reflect an expanded market of beverages, and the deposit on beverage containers should be increased to 10 cents.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Town of Ancram urges the New York State Legislature to pass and Governor Kathy Hochul to sign into law a strong and effective Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act A5322-A/S4246-A, and an expanded and modernized Bottle Bill A.6353/S.237-B, and

RESOLVED, further, That the Town of Ancram shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York Assembly Speaker and New York State Senate Majority Leader, the local state assemblymember, the local state senator, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

Resolution offered by Councilwoman Lutz and seconded by Councilwoman Gold.

Aye: 5 Nay: 0

Mr. MacArthur noted that the Building Inspector would like the town to consider purchasing a vehicle for his use. The town board members decided to ask other towns if this is something they provide.

Town Board

Councilman David Boice noted that a helicopter landing zone has been staked out on the field next to the town hall.

Councilman David Boice said that he has received several complaints regarding the planning and zoning department and the process should be less prohibitive.

Councilman Boice asked at this time to enter executive session to discuss the using and operating of the town email. There was no matter specified in Open Meetings Law under which this would fall. Mr. Boice spoke about the town email and that he was concerned that Ms. Ann Rader, the official town email person, was being pushed to post things that the town board had decided to not send out. Mr. Boice stated that he felt that Councilwoman Hundt had been unkind to Ms. Rader. Mr. Boice noted that the town board had decided to not send out the flyer from the sheriffs office about how to speak to your children about safety on line yet Ms. Hundt had directed Ms. Rader on her own to have the flyer sent around. Ms. Hundt responded that she had looked for a newer version of the flyer but there was none. She felt it was good information for the public. She felt that the sending or not of the email was not Ms. Raders decision and that maybe she is not the right person for this position.

Councilwoman Gold announced that the Copake Rapid care will be opening as soon as June 1st. Mrs. Gold said that there is a press release and it will be on file with the Town Clerk.

Councilwoman Gold said that there is progress being made at the intersection of 7/82. Central Hudson will need to move a pole and a set of stairs will need to be relocated.

Councilwoman Hundt reported on affordable housing. She noted that she has gone to meetings with the tri town council. She noted that there is a 2 million dollar grant the county has applied for which would fund people to build ADU's. She also noted the looking at Ancrams zoning to allow for affordable structures.

Councilwoman Lutz reported that there will be a meeting April 15 at the town hall 6-7:30 on the character of the Punchbrook. She is working on the new Ag Advisory Council along with Susan Artitian and Bonnie Hundt. A survey will be going out for the committee.

Councilwoman Lutz read through an extensive grant report which is on file with the Town Clerk.

Highway Report

Diesel Fuel Used: 342 gallons

Gasoline Used: 571 used

To date we have conducted snow and/or ice operations on 7 separate days in February and one so far in March.

We hired the Haupt tree co here to remove some difficult large trees. We took 5 large maples from along Wiltsie Bridge and removed a dead tree that was threatening numerous tombstones in Union Cemetery along with another dead tree near the battlefield.

I have received word that the 2 bodies for the Kenworth trucks ordered nearly a year ago are supposed to come in March... Still awaiting confirmation on delivery. The new plow truck chassis is now scheduled to be built in April so it should be fully equipped and delivered to us by years end hopefully.

I have arranged to rent a sweeper to remove excess sand from the roads beginning in April as we do annually.

We have been trimming trees and cleaning up storm debris along various roads when weather conditions allow.

Another day of heavy winds on 3/11 brought down several trees and power lines around town. Purchased a used wood stump grinder from RD Maintenance for \$3200 in like new condition to grind tree stumps left after removing trees along roadways. Leaving them could cause the town to be held liable in the event that they are struck and cause injury.

We have been doing patching on the blacktop roads and hope to begin grading the dirt roads soon.

We continue to stockpile and hauling gravel.

I would like permission to attend highway school held at the Ithica College 6/2-6/5

I will be taking a vacation between 4/5-4/14. Brian will be in charge.

Town Clerk Report

March Town Clerk and Tax Collector Report

**To date I have collected 85% of the total tax roll for 2024.*

** Second notices will go in the mail April 1st.*

**I turned over \$142.00 in fees to the Supervisor for the month of February. Of that \$80 was for certified death certificates and the remaining for dog licenses.*

**I am waiting quotes from banner companies for the Hometown Hero banner project. I have been in contact so far with ProPrinters and NextGen signs.*

**The Columbia County Sheriffs office will be holding a questions and coffee forum at the Town Hall on March 26th from 6-7pm.*

**The KISS shredding barrels provided by the County Clerks Office will continue through March 22nd.*

**I will be hosting the Columbia-Greene Town Clerks Association bi-monthly meeting in Ancram for the June meeting.*

Resolution #17 of 2024:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF A PLOW TRUCK AND TWO DUMP BODIES FOR HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT PURPOSES AND THE ISSUANCE OF SERIAL BONDS OF THE TOWN OF ANCRAM, COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$448,000 PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL FINANCE LAW TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF, PROVIDING THAT THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM, AND DELEGATING CERTAIN POWERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH TO THE TOWN SUPERVISOR

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Ancram, Columbia County, New York (the "Town") (by the favorable vote of not less than two-thirds of all of the members of the Town Board) as follows:

SECTION 1. The specific purpose (hereinafter referred to as "purpose") to be financed pursuant to this resolution is the acquisition of a new International plow truck and two new dump bodies for Highway Department purposes. The estimated aggregate maximum cost of said purpose is \$448,000, and said amount is hereby appropriated therefor. It is hereby determined that said purpose is an object or purpose described in subdivision 28 of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law, and that the period of probable usefulness of said purpose is 15 years.

SECTION 2. It is hereby determined that the aforesaid purpose constitutes a Type II action as defined under the State Environmental Quality Review Regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617, which has been determined under SEQRA not to have a significant impact on the environment.

SECTION 3. It is hereby determined that the proposed maturity of the obligations authorized by this resolution will be in excess of five years from the original date of issuance of such obligations.

SECTION 4. The Town Board plans to finance the total cost of said purpose by the issuance of serial bonds of the Town in an amount not to exceed \$448,000, hereby authorized to be issued therefor pursuant to the Local Finance Law.

SECTION 5. Current funds are not required to be provided prior to the issuance of the bonds authorized by this resolution or any notes issued in anticipation of said bonds.

SECTION 6. The proceeds of the bonds herein authorized and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds may be applied to reimburse the Town for expenditures made after the effective date of this resolution for the purpose for which said bonds are authorized. This resolution shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations.

SECTION 7. Each of the bonds authorized by this resolution and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds, shall contain the recital of validity prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law. The faith and credit of the Town are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds becoming due and payable in such year. There shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property of the Town a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due and payable.

SECTION 8. Subject to the terms and contents of this resolution and the Local Finance Law, and pursuant to the provisions of Sections 30.00, 50.00 and 56.00 to 63.00, inclusive, of said Law, the power to authorize bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance of the serial bonds authorized by this resolution and the renewals of said notes and the power to prescribe the terms, form and contents of said serial bonds and said bond anticipation notes (including without limitation the date, denominations, maturities, interest payment dates, consolidation with other issues, and redemption rights), the power to determine to issue said bonds providing for substantially level or declining debt service, and the power to sell and deliver said serial bonds (including statutory installment bonds), and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds, is hereby delegated to the Town Supervisor, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the Town. The Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to sign any serial bonds issued pursuant to this resolution and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the issuance of said serial bonds, and the Town Clerk is hereby authorized to affix the corporate seal of the Town to any of said serial bonds or any bond anticipation notes and to attest such seal.

SECTION 9. The Town Supervisor is further authorized to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary to ensure the continued status of the interest on the bonds authorized by this resolution, and any notes issued in anticipation thereof, as excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") and to designate the bonds authorized by this resolution and any notes issued in anticipation thereof as "qualified tax-exempt bonds" for purposes of Section 265(b)(3)(B)(i) of the Code.

SECTION 10. Within ten days after the adoption of this resolution, the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause to be published at least once in the in The Register Star, and The Columbia Paper, each being a newspaper having a general circulation in the Town and hereby designated as the official newspapers of the Town, and to be posted on the sign board of the Town maintained pursuant to the Town Law, a notice which shall set forth the date of adoption of this resolution and contain an abstract thereof, concisely stating its purpose and effect and specifying that this resolution was adopted subject to a permissive referendum.

SECTION 11. This resolution shall take effect thirty days after adoption, unless there shall be filed with the Town Clerk a petition signed and acknowledged by the electors of the Town qualified to vote upon a proposition to raise and expend money, in number equal to at least five percentum of the total vote cast for governor in the Town at the last general election held for the election of State offices, protesting against this resolution and requesting that the matter be submitted to the qualified electors of the Town at a referendum in the manner provided by Article Seven of the Town Law.

SECTION 12. The validity of said serial bonds or of any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said serial bonds may be contested only if:

- (1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the town is not authorized to expend money; or
- (2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of the publication of this resolution are not substantially complied with; and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication; or
- (3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution of New York.

SECTION 13. Upon the effective date hereof, the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish this resolution, or a summary thereof, together with a notice in substantially the form provided by Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law, in The Register Star, and The Columbia Paper, each being a newspaper having a general circulation in the Town and hereby designated as the official newspapers of the Town for such publication.

Resolution offered by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt.

Aye: 5 Nay: 0

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

Public Comments

Ruth VanWagoner asked about the progress on the pavilion on the ball field. The board discussed and decided to table the decision to the next meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Lutz to allow for the contacting of a postage machine for the town hall. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Hundt stated that she felt the town needs to update the website.

Mrs. Donna Hoyt, Ancram, asked about the article in the Registered Herald and if the paper had been called following discussion at the previous meeting. Councilwoman Gold said that the paper said they will make the correction.

Mrs. Donna Hoyt, Ancram, asked about the progress in dissolving the Ancram Lighting District. Mr. MacArthur will look into this.

Mrs. Donna Hoyt, Ancram, asked about the Tin Smith house as she owns the land adjacent to it. She said that she is willing to work with the town as well. She noted that the property is assessed at \$90,000.

There being no more business, Councilwoman Hundt made a motion seconded by Councilman Boice to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland, RMC
Ancram Town Clerk

DRAFT