

# **Ancram Town Board Agenda**

## **March 20, 2025**

7:00pm: Regular Town Board Meeting.

Meeting called to order by Supervisor MacArthur with a Salute to the Flag.

Recusal Check

Motion and a second to adjourn the meeting to Executive Session to discuss current litigation.

### **Executive Session**

Motion and Second to approve the February Town Board minutes.

Presentation on 2025 Ancram Kids Camp

Supervisors Report

Highway Department Report

Town Clerk and Tax Collector Report

Town Board Member Comments:

Councilwoman Hundt: -Pavilion Grant

Councilwoman Gold-

Councilman Boice-

Councilwoman Lutz- Roe Jan Library

Town Committees Reports:

FAC: Report on the 2024 Audits

Old Business:

Discussion on Solar Panels on Town Hall roof

Discussion on the Town Hall EV Charger

Resolutions:

**Resolution #16 of 2025:** RESOLVED: That the Town Board of the Town of Ancram does hire Town Accountant Robert Patterson to review the 2024 books and dockets on behalf of the Town Board. FURTHER RESOLVED: This will be an expenditure in addition to the contracted 2025 payment amount.

**Resolution #17 of 2025:** RESOLVED: That after advertising and conducting interviews, the Town Board of the Town of Ancram does hereby appoint Christine Brown the Planning Board second Alternate. FURTHER RESOLVED: Ms. Brown will take the unexpired 2029 term.

**Resolution #18 of 2025:** RESOLVED: That the Town Board does hereby give permission for the Highway Superintendent to attend the 2025 NYS Highway School.

**Resolution #19 of 2025: TO SUPPORT OF THE ROE JAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY AND CONTINUED FEDERAL AND STATE LIBRARY FUNDING**

WHEREAS, the Roeliff Jansen Community Library ("Roe Jan Library") provides vital educational, cultural, and community services to the residents of the Towns of Hillsdale, Copake, and Ancram; and WHEREAS, libraries play a crucial role in providing equitable access to information, technology, literacy programs, and lifelong learning opportunities for individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and economic statuses; and

WHEREAS, the Roe Jan Library, like many public libraries across New York State, relies on funding from multiple sources, including state and federal grants, to sustain essential programs and services; and WHEREAS, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) plays a critical role in supporting public libraries through its Grants to States program, which provides necessary funding to state library agencies, including the New York State Division of Library Development; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has issued an executive order calling for the elimination of the IMLS "to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law," which threatens the stability of library funding across the nation, including in New York State; and

WHEREAS, the loss or significant reduction of IMLS funding could have a ripple effect, disrupting critical services, delaying state aid for libraries, and severely impacting the Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS), which supports the Roe Jan Library; and

WHEREAS, the Museum and Library Services Act of 2018 mandates, under Section 9133 and Section 9141, that federal funding be provided to state libraries, making it imperative that Congress defend and uphold these provisions to ensure continued library funding; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ancram recognizes the indispensable role of the Roe Jan Library in fostering literacy, providing access to technology, supporting workforce development, and strengthening community engagement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Ancram, New York:

1. Expresses its strong support for the Roeliff Jansen Community Library and the essential services it provides to our residents.
2. Urges the U.S. Congress, including Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand and Representative Josh Riley, to take immediate action to protect the funding guarantees under Section 9141 of the Museum and Library Services Act.
3. Calls upon New York State leadership to prioritize state-level funding for the Division of Library Development to mitigate potential federal funding losses.

4. Encourages Ancram residents and neighboring communities to advocate for library funding by contacting their federal and state representatives.
5. Directs the Town Clerk to send copies of this resolution to the above-named U.S. Senators, U.S. Representative, Governor Kathy Hochul, State Senator Michelle Hinchey, Assembly member Didi Barrett and other relevant state or local officials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**Resolution #20 of 2025: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION:**

**LIV & TOM’S RANCH, LLC v. ASSESSOR et al.**

WHEREAS, Liv & Tom’s Ranch, LLC, commenced proceedings pursuant to Article 7 of the Real Property Tax Law (“RPTL”) against the Assessor of the Town of Ancram and the Board of Assessment Review of the Town of Ancram (collectively, the “Town”) in Supreme Court, Columbia County, bearing caption In the Matter of the Application of Liv & Tom’s Ranch, LLC v. The Board of Assessors and/or the Assessor of the Town of Ancram, et al., and Index Nos. E012023020752 and E012024022649 (hereinafter, the “Proceedings”), in which such petitioner sought reduction of the 2023 and 2024 assessments of real property designated as Tax Map Parcel No. 224.-1-160, located at 1110 County Route 8A; and WHEREAS, it is determined to be in the best interest of the Town of Ancram to resolve the Proceedings by reducing the assessments for the subject property as follows:

Year Original AV Proposed AV Proposed AV Reduction

2023 1,712,000 1,425,000 (287,000)

2024 1,712,000 1,390,800 (321,200)

AND WHEREAS, it is determined to be in the best interest of the Town of Ancram to resolve the Proceedings as outlined in the table above, on the conditions that Real Property Tax Law § 727 shall apply in the years 2025, 2026, and 2027; and that any refunds of taxes paid that are due to petitioner as a result of such resolution shall be payable without interest if payment is made by the applicable entity responsible for such refunds within sixty (60) days of service upon it of a copy of an Order executed by the Court reflecting such reduction of the assessments for the property for the years at issue with notice of its entry;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Ancram in regular session duly convened as follows:

1. The Town Board approves the settlement of the Proceedings as set forth in the table above on the conditions that Real Property Tax Law § 727 shall apply in the years 2025, 2026, and 2027; and that any refunds of taxes paid that are due to petitioner as a result of such resolution shall be payable without interest if payment is made by the applicable entity responsible for such refunds within sixty (60) days of service upon it of a copy of an Order executed by the Court reflecting such reduction of the assessments for the property for the years at issue with notice of its entry.
2. The Town Board hereby authorizes and directs the law firm of Gilchrist Tingley, P.C., as attorneys for the Town in the Proceedings, to execute any documents and take any further steps necessary to settle the Proceedings in accordance with this Resolution.

Motion and Second to approve the warrants and pay the bills.

Public Comment

Motion and Second to adjourn the meeting.