

From the Desk of the Supervisor:

*****Please note: These are not official minutes. The official town minutes can be found on the website: www.ancramny.org/town-board**

Workshop- The town board continued discussing the language of the 2004 Escrow Law to remove the Town Clerk as the party responsible for tracking escrow accounts. Additionally, the Board discussed how the escrow could be set more equitably.

The discussion about the 250th celebration was tabled until next meeting in April.

The Kids Camp director, Taylor Price, gave a brief presentation and overview of the 2026 camp programming. The camp will run for six weeks July 6th-August 14th. On Thursday's, the camp will take field trips and Taylor also hope to bring back themed weeks such as holiday week. The Camp Board will be working on improving the parking, moving the toilet, potential for allowing kids to bring a bagged lunch, and ensuring the STEM Bus is held at the Town Hall.

The Assessor, Rene Deleuw, gave a quick presentation to the Board about trending through NYS to help bring the equalization rate back up closer to 100%. Columbia County has one of the highest home median values in NYS. In 2023, the equalization rate was 100%, because of the re-evaluation. As of the end of 2025, the rate had dropped to 90% and is projected to fall to 80% if home sales continue their current trend. While assessed values may go up, it does not necessarily mean that taxes go up, and the hope is that the overall tax rate will go down.

Joe Brown, CSCTF Co-Chair, presented the idea of a Town-wide Tag Sale. The Town Hall was projected to be the best location, with increased parking and bathrooms. A late spring, early summer date is preferable as people start to clean out their homes. The rain date of August 8th was suggested because that is National Tag Sale Day. The goal was to keep useable items out of the landfill.

Regular Meeting-

The supervisor gave a brief report about the county Public Safety and Public Works Committees. She also discussed the Pine Plains Central School Building Utilization Committee meetings.

Highway Superintendent Jim Miller gave the report for the highway department. He also reported that he would like to attend Highway School.

The Town Clerk and Tax Collector Monica Cleveland gave the report for the town clerk's office. She also reported that she would like to attend the NYS Clerks Association Conference.

Councilmember Jennifer Boice reported that she would be collaborating with the Camp Board and Taylor Price to make some improvements as noted in the workshop meeting. She also indicated that she had been interviewing for additional lifeguards and would like to have at least one older guard WSI certified.

Councilmember Amy Gold reported on the website designer/consultant contract with CivicPlus and that it had been executed. The vendor would be starting work in April. Ancram Neighbors Helping Neighbors met with Steelbow Farm, and they will be helping with the Food Pantry. She also reported that she was

coordinating a Senior's Day with the CC Office for the Aging to help connect seniors and caregivers with programs offered in the county.

Council member David Boice shared his experience while attending a planning board meeting. He felt that the Town could do better when collaborating with consultants and property owners, especially when affordable housing is involved.

Old Business items were discussed, including Kids Camp Fees and Escrow Law Revisions.

New business items were discussed, including ZRC appointments and Trending Assessments. The Board approved resolutions for both the Town Clerk and The Highway Superintendent to attend their respective conferences and trainings.

Several members of the public reported the actions of the ZRC, its purpose, and alignment with the Comprehensive Plan.