

Draft Minutes

**Town of
Ancram**

**Town Board
Workshop Meeting
January 5, 2009**

Present: Supervisor Thomas Dias
Councilman Robert Mayhew
Councilman James Miller
Councilwoman Donna Hoyt
Town Clerk Monica Cleveland

Supervisor Dias called the workshop to order at 6:00pm following the previous 5:45 Special Meeting.

Mr. Dias asked for questions from the floor.

The Board was asked what the difference was between a workshop meeting and a regular board meeting. Mr. Dias stated that after speaking to the Town attorney Mr. Shaw and the Association of Towns, he became aware that the town board can hold workshop meetings. These meetings are run as a regular town board meeting. The Board has the authority to vote and pass resolutions as in the regular meeting. The Ancram Town Board though has agreed that they will save all of their voting for the regular town board meetings.

Mr. Dias stated that there are several items that the board would like to discuss at this meeting. Mrs. Hoyt asked to speak on the Greenway. Mr. Dias stated that Assemblyman Marcus Molinaro is asking that the Town of Ancram sign a letter and pass a resolution opposing Governor Patterson's proposal to eliminate the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council and Hudson River Valley Greenway Heritage Conservancy, allowing the transfer of liabilities and responsibilities to the Department of State. Councilwoman Hoyt stated that she has done a lot of research into this and does think that the town should right away pass a resolution that there may be other departments that may be cut that the town would like to support instead of this. She stated that she felt that this Greenway was more to do with recreational activities and not conservational ones. It was brought up by the audience that this would be in sink with what the Comprehensive plan is looking to in the future in the way of bike paths and parks. Mr. Dias read the letter from Mr. Molinaro. Mr. Mayhew stated that the State is not cutting the Greenway, they are removing it from the Counties jurisdiction and placing it with the Department of

State. Mrs. Hoyt stated that Ancram does not have anything that is in relation to the Greenway. Mr. Miller stated that he felt they had a hand in the Rail Trail.

Mr. Dan Regent from Graphic Design came forward and gave a short presentation about his website company. Mr. Regent stated that Ancram has a very nice website and that his company would offer their services to maintain the site. He stated that he would bill monthly at a rate of \$65.00 per hour with a minimum of a half hour. Mr. Mayhew asked if it was possible to have the proposed town newsletter on the website and could they be sent out as e-mails. Mr. Regent stated that he has a facility that he uses to send out mass e-mails and there are cost effective ways to do this. Mr. Dias asked if the website would be hacker proof. Mr. Regent stated that this would depend on the host and that he is not familiar with the host Ancram is using. He feels though that it is secure. His host is a company called Internet Wizards.

Mr. Dan Read, Animal Control Officer, came forward and gave a short presentation regarding his duties in the town of Hillsdale. He stated that in Hillsdale he is the dog catcher and will also take calls concerning cats and other "critters". He stated that he is paid a salary of \$300.00 a month plus 58 cents a mile by Hillsdale. He stated that at this time he is doing a dog census in Hillsdale. Mr. Miller asked if Mr. Read tries to find the owner of the animal when he picks it up. Mr. Read stated that he attempts and is very successful in finding the homes of most of the animals. The others he adopts them out. Mr. Dias asked if the town has to have a kennel. Mr. Read stated that the town needs a place for the picked up animals to go. He does bring animals back to his home. Mr. Dias stated that Ancram would like to have an "Animal Control Officer" and that if Mr. Read is contracted, Ancram would terminate the relationship with the current catcher. Town Clerk Monica Cleveland stated that the current Dog Catcher was being paid \$120.00 a month plus mileage. Mrs. Hoyt asked if there needed to be a base salary or would Mr. Read consider having a rate per call. Mr. Read stated that this could be worked out either way. Mr. Dias asked Mr. Read to send an official letter to the Town Board. Mrs. Cleveland asked if he would do a census in Ancram. He stated if contracted to, then year. He has been having good results in Hillsdale. Mrs. Hoyt asked if the Copake Vet would be willing to hold picked up animals. Mr. Read stated that they do not at this point but that he would like to set this up with them if possible in the future. Mr. Mayhew asked if Mr. Read carried his own insurance. He stated that he does not. Mr. Morey, a former Town of Ancram Dog Catcher, stated that he was always covered under the towns insurance. Mr. Dias stated that he would look into this.

Highway Superintendent James MacArthur approached the board about the proposed bid on a 1978 Oshkosh truck from the Town of Pleasant Valley. The bid was for \$14,000.00 and was accepted as offered. Councilman Mayhew stated that the Highway Department was having a lot of trouble with trucks this winter. Councilwoman Hoyt stated that it was her understanding that the Highway department had bought a truck plow before it was approved for this to happen. She stated that she understood that it was delivered that next day. Mrs. Hoyt asked the board why they wanted to buy a 30 year old truck. Mr. Mayhew stated that there was no money to buy a new truck. Mrs. Hoyt stated that she felt there was no need to purchase old equipment. Mr. Fred Sneeberger stated that due to

the fact that the truck is only used for snow plowing and sanding, it is really only 15 years old. Mrs. Hoyt stated that there is a defiant need for a five year highway plan. Mr. Perry Miller stated that the number of trucks that the town needs would not fit into a five year plan. Mrs. Hoyt stated that the board needs to look at what is new and what is old and needs replacing. Highway Superintendent MacArthur stated that the newest truck is five years old. Mr. Dias asked him to put together an inventory plan. Mr. Dias stated that the board can have a special meeting to approve the buying of the truck.

Mr. Terry Boyles approached the board. He stated that in 1999 he bought a 5.12 acre plot of land on Hall Hill road. He stated that he wanted to place a trailer on the land and went to the zoning board for a variance. He was denied and told to purchase another acre which he did from abutting land owner Caroline Garbarini. His new parcel was then 6.12 acres. The land has been subdivided and is now two separate parcels, the back parcel (the one in question) is 3.12 with a trailer and the front parcel 3 acres. Mr. Boyles stated that he received notification from the assessor in Gallatin, Mr. DeLeu, that part of his back parcel, (1.60 acres of it) is really in the town of Gallatin. He stated that he was told that the County had aerial maps made and that the town line now runs through this property. He stated according to the assessors, the house and the well for the property is now in Gallatin and the septic is in Ancram. His taxes are \$794.00 more this year due to this. Mr. Boyles presented the board with his original stamped map that showed the property as being all in the town of Ancram. He stated that until this year, the property had been in the Town of Ancram. Mr. Dias stated that the counties newer maps use straight lines and that the Gallatin assessor became aware of this due to the new map. Mr. Boyles stated that his surveyor in 1999 went by the original pins for the property. He stated that the property lost some acreage as well due to the fact that Ancram is billing him on 1,04 acres and Gallatin is billing on 1.60 acres. Mr. Boyles stated that he spoke to the Ancram Assessor Mr. Legget who told him to go to mapping in the County. The County told Mr. Boyles that the issue has to be worked out between the two assessors. Mrs. Hoyt suggested getting Ancram and Gallatin assessors together. Mr. Dias stated that he will invite both assessors to the next board meeting.

Councilwoman Hoyt asked Mr. Dias to set up the dates for the Town Garage public meetings and a date for the Special Election. Mr. Dias stated that before setting up the election, the public hearings have to be held for public questions and comments. Mrs. Hoyt suggested having one meeting on a weekend and one on a weeknight. Mr. Jack Lindsey suggested announcing the meetings at the next Town Board meeting. Mrs. Hoyt suggested consolidating the information on the four proposed ideas and having them placed in the proposed newsletter. Mr. Mayhew stated that at these two meetings it has to be discussed that there are two parts to the decision. Mr. Miller stated that one plan has to be chosen and then go to referendum. Mr. Lindsey stated that it needs to be broken down as to what the purchase would mean to the towns taxes. The board agreed to hold the public hearings on February 20, 2009 at 1:00pm and at the March 5, 2009 workshop.

Councilman Mayhew stated that he has a sample newsletter for the board to look over as well as some financial numbers. Mr. Mayhew stated that the board would not use stamps for these but would purchase a postal number that would have a onetime \$150.00 fee.

Clerk Cleveland stated that the Town Hall has a need for a postal machine as well. Mr. Mayhew and Mrs. Cleveland would discuss the postal arrangements.

Councilman Mayhew stated that he has made progress on the Senior Group Committee. He stated that he received yes's from the following community members: Immogene Morey, Madeline Israel, Donald Wheeler, Jim Evers and Caroline Garbarini. The following persons also showed interest: Grace Roe, Barbara Simons and Kay MacArthur. Mrs. Hoyt asked if the board needs to have a Board member as a liaison. Mr. Dias stated that this was not needed. Mrs. Hoyt asked if Mr. Dias had drawn up a purpose statement. Mr. Dias stated that he intends to have a purpose statement and a resolution for the next Board meeting. He stated that the purpose statement will state that the committee is not just recreational but also educational. Mrs. Hoyt stated that she would like this to also be in place so that if and when a senior has an issue at home, such as no electricity or place to go in an emergency. Jeanie Scotti from the Community rescue Squad stated that they keep forms on hand that gives them an idea of who in the community has special needs such as oxygen or ventilators. She stated that she will get a sample to the board.

Councilwoman Hoyt informed those gathered that the town has received papers from the law firm Martin, Harding and Mizotti stating that the town is being notified of a claim. She stated that this is why the town was concerned with those using the town facilities to have additional insurance. She stated that this claim may limit the town to do activities within what is allowed for insurance meetings. Mr. Dias stated that the current insurance covers town activities; others using the hall will need riders. Mrs. Hoyt stated that the insurance will cover the town this time but may not cover in the future.

A motion was made by Councilman Mayhew and seconded by Councilman Miller to adjourn the meeting. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Cleveland
Town Clerk