

**Town of Ancram  
Town Board  
Regular Meeting  
April 21, 2016**

**Present:** Supervisor Arthur Bassin                      Councilman Hugh Clark  
                 Councilman Chris Thomas                      Councilwoman Madeline Israel  
                 Councilman David Boice                      Town Clerk Monica Cleveland  
                 Highway Superintendent James Miller

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The regular meeting was called to order by Supervisor Arthur Bassin at 7:07 pm with a salute to the flag.

Mr. Bassin introduced Dr. Handler, Superintendent of the Pine Plains School District. Dr. Handler was at the meeting to give a presentation on the proposed 2016/2017 school district budget. Dr. Handler said that the budget will be a 2.0% levy increase for the coming year. He stated that there are many factors that are included in the budget, including teacher retirement, state mandates and fixed expenditures. Dr. Handler was very proud of the fact that Pine Plains is the only school district in the area to provide lap tops and tablets to their students, the only FFA Program still in existence in Dutchess County and the only school to provide Manderin as a foreign language. Dr. Handler also spoke about the bus situation and the fact that the school has begun to faze out the larger busses and is instead opting for smaller buses.

Mr. Gerry Fultz asked what the trend in enrollment is. Dr. Handler stated that enrollment has been on the decline and at this time there are 950 students in the district. 12% of those students are receiving some sort of supportive classes.

Mr. Mike Citrin asked what would happen if the budget does not pass. Dr. Handler stated that there would then be a bare bones contingent budget with rules.

A question was raised about capital reserves and where that money has gone in the past. Dr. Handler stated that there have been capital reserve accounts in the past. One example is the bus garage, which was paid for out of capital reserves.

Mr. Bassin thanked Dr. Handler for the presentation.

A motion was made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman Boice to approve the March 19, 2016 minutes as read and placed on the record. Motion carried.

**Fire Chief**

Mr. Boice stated that the past month has been very busy. The members have logged a total of 289 hours of training and 208 hours answering calls. The department will take part in the Memorial Day parade as well as a June 11<sup>th</sup> flag day celebration.

## **Supervisors Report**

**1. Financial Report** – March was another “normal” financial month. We continue to benefit from the mild weather, low fuel costs and lower repairs and maintenance costs. For the three months ending March 2016, we have spent about \$110,000 less than through March of 2015. The Highway Department accounted for \$100,000 of that year to year difference, caused by underruns in fuel, snow removal, machinery repairs and overtime. Based on the 1Q running rate, we may see full year sales tax, mortgage tax, building permit and fee/fine revenues exceed budget by about \$50,000 in aggregate. We also have identified and approved about \$150,000 of unbudgeted capital projects for 2016, including \$50,000 in highway equipment, \$25,000 for the oil/water separator, \$25,000 for the pool repairs and \$55,000 for the culvert project in kind match. We will fund these projects with 2016 cost savings and unbudgeted revenues, and if necessary, from the Town’s \$800,000 fund balance, which is our reserve account.

**2. Culvert Project** – We expect to receive bids for the concrete box culverts on 4/20 and will have a better idea of the costs of the project when we get the bids back. Depending on costs, we will either do two major culverts – Pats Rd and Hall Hill Rd, or one major and a few minor culverts. We expect \$220,000 of grant money from DEC and will match the \$220,000 in grant funds with Highway Department labor, equipment and materials totaling \$55,000.

**3. Climate Smart Community** – Climate Smart Community task force will be appointed at April TB meeting. People interested in serving on this committee should contact me or Jane Meigs, who has agreed to serve as chair of the CSC TF.

**4. Heritage Resources Committee** – A lot going on: a) The Ancram Historic District looks like it will be approved by the State this summer, and work on the Ancramdale Historic District will begin after the Ancram approval. b) Bob Murphy has recommended that we approve the installation of a new wood fence around the cemetery. Following the fence, the plan is to repair the head stones in the cemetery. This project has been on the drawing board for a couple of years. c) Lynne Perrella reported that the next exhibit in the historic vestibule will be on veterans, and will be scheduled for a grand opening around Veterans Day in November. d) Gerry Fultz reported that Habitat is still in the process of developing a plan for the properties in the center of Ancram. We expect to have a more concrete sense of their approach in the next month or so. Gerry also reported that there has been some discussion about ways to restore the old horse shed at St John’s Lutheran Church in Ancram, either in place, or at another site. Private donations to the Heritage Resources Fund totaling \$16,000 are available to fund “heritage” projects. We will do some additional fundraising for the head stones when we are ready for that phase of the project.

**5. Right to Farm law** – Revised version of RTF law eliminates Town role in the dispute resolution process, and recommends use of NYS Ag & Markets mediation service. Public hearing will be scheduled prior to April TB meeting. We held a joint Ag Committee-CAC-CLC meeting on April 4 to review RTF law, and have received comments from Nan Stolzenburg, CAC, CLC and NYS Department of Ag & Markets, which we will incorporate in to the RTF law following the public hearing.

**6. Highway Garage Drain** – Contamination testing was done two weeks ago. Still waiting for results. We have applied for the permits to allow the installation of the oil/water separator. Waiting for approval.

**7. 2016 Camp Fees** - We will discuss Chris’s proposal that we waive Camp fees for Ancram residents in 2016. Last year there were about \$10,000 in fees paid out of the total camp revenue of \$17,000. If we waive fees this year, we will accelerate our efforts to raise money from voluntary donations from camper families, the general public and from grants. There is also an opportunity to provide free camp lunches this summer, through the Food Bank program that Jack Lindsey and Bob Murphy are working with.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilwoman Israel. Carried unanimously.

**Resolution #21 of 2016 - Letter of Support** – Resolved that the Town Supervisor is authorized to write a letter on behalf of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association in support of their application for \$8 million in grant funding to complete work on the portion of the rail trail going through Ancram and Copake to Hillsdale.

Ellen Langton addressed the board concerning the Rhoda Lake Community and the process of stopping Camp Pontiac from placing herbicides in Rhoda Lake. She stated that the NYS law reads that pesticides cannot be used around schools but that there is nothing in the law regarding herbicides in a camp lake. Jamie Purinton said that there is support coming from all over regarding the stopping of the use of the herbicides. She stressed that this is a lake that is part of a NYS protected water area. Coral Eddie stated that the Long Lake community has written letters to DEC as well. It was suggested that the reason for the buildup of vegetation in the lake is due to a faulty septic system at the camp, which is dumping into the lake. Mr. Jack Lindsey felt that if this was the case, why has the ZEO in Copake not inspected it. Mr. Lindsey stated that Copake should be made aware of this. Marnie McLean, owner of Thompson Finch Farm, read a letter that showed that there will be adverse effects on their organic farm by the use of herbicides in the lake, which flows into the Roe Jan which is used to irrigate their organic farm.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman Boice and moved for adoption. Resolution carried with one recusal, Councilwoman Israel.

**Resolution #22 of 2016: Letter of Support** – Resolved that the Town Supervisor is authorized to write a letter on behalf of the Lower Rhoda Lake Association (LRLA) requesting that the Department of Environmental Conservation consider their position of the LRLA prior to making a decision about the use of herbicides by Camp Pontiac in Lower Rhoda Lake.

#### **Board Member Comments**

Councilwoman Israel said that she had been approached by Columbia Memorial. They would like to do a presentation regarding the Urgent Care facility being built in Copake. She will set this up.

#### **Highway**

Mr. Miller stated that the department has had a busy month, with snow in the first part. He reported that the department has one truck at Ben Funks. The grader is leaking coolant. He also reported that the dirt around the run off tank was not contaminated and that it will be disposed of properly.

#### **Town Clerk**

The clerk has been experiencing an influx of genealogy requests. On advice from the State offices, Mrs. Cleveland asked that a fee of \$10 for a genealogy application be set in place. A motion was made to that regard by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman Boice. Motion carried.

#### **FAC**

The audit process has begun.

#### **Ethics**

The Ethics board had received two calls. Both were regarding another town and were passed on.

#### **CAC**

CAC met with the Ag Advisory Council and CLC to discuss the right to farm law. They have completed 30 of the 455 questions on the bio diversity map. They will take part in a round table in Hillsdale.

#### **Ag Committee**

The Ag committee met with the CAC and the CLC to go over the climate smart communities and the right to farm law.

#### **Heritage Resources**

Bob Murphy is working on a project to put a fence around the Freeground cemetery. The highway department has cleaned up the perimeter of the cemetery. Mr. Murphy has received two bids from local fencing companies. Phase two of this project is to fix the headstones.

### **Broadband**

Mr. Fultz stated that he is continuing work on this. He has found that this area is the second worst in the state for broadband. A committee of the towns is being formed.

Mr. Fultz said the APG is getting close to a septic solution at the Simons Store, which would then help the potential sale. The town is a month or two away from becoming a historical district.

The new vestibule will be unveiled in November and will display the town's veterans.

### **Assessor**

Clerk Cleveland stated that the office would like to update the filing system. This would cost approximately \$450 in hanging folders. A motion was made by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilman Thomas to allow an expenditure in the Assessors office to update the filing system. Motion carried.

### **Culvert Grant**

There were six bids opened. The committee is still studying the numbers.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilman Thomas and moved for adoption. Carried unanimously.

**Resolution #23 of 2016: Climate Smart Community Task Force - Resolved**, that Jane Meigs, Jonathon Meigs, David Dembo, Erin Robertson, Madeleine Israel and Art Bassin are appointed to the Town of Ancram Climate Smart Communities Task Force to identify climate smart actions that can be implemented by the town of Ancram and its residents; be it further resolved that Mrs. Meigs will serve as chair of this Task Force, and that the Task Force may designate other individuals to serve on the Task Force.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved for adoption. Carried unanimously.

**Resolution #24 of 2016: CR 7/Hall Hill Cemetery Fence – Resolved**, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to use up to \$4000 of funds previously raised from donations from the public now in the Heritage Resources Fund to erect a fence around the small cemetery on CR 7 near Hall Hill Road

Mr. Bassin and Mr. Boice gave an update on the Pool Bath House renovations. There were two applicants and the town hired both to work together. The project is moving along well. The decking around the pool as well as the fencing will be replaced this fall.

### **Summer Camp**

Councilman Thomas made the suggestion that the town offer summer camp for free. He felt that this would impact many people in town. Mrs. Citrin reported that last year the camp averaged 33 children at camp with 15 of them on scholarship. She had concerns as the town is the only one who accempts four year olds. Mr. Lindsey had concerns about people from out of town coming to the camp and over extending the town. A debate as to whether all should come free or just residents ensued.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman Boice and moved for adoption. Carried unanimously.

**Resolution #25 of 2016: 2016 Camp Fees – Resolved**, that the 2016 Ancram Kids Camp be cost free to children and grandchildren of individuals who own or rent property in Ancram, and cost \$75 per week for non-Ancram residents, and be it further resolved that the Ancram Pool will be cost free to all swimmers, and be it further resolved that the Town Supervisor will make best efforts to raise as much of the annual \$45,000 cost of operating the Camp and the Pool as possible through donations and grants.

Mr. Jack Lindsey at this time presented the town board with a sample bag lunch that NHN are applying for on behalf of the town. This program is run through the food pantry program. Bagged lunches will be provided for the children of the Ancram camp this season.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved for adoption. Carried unanimously.

**Resolution #26 of 2016: Accept Bids for Concrete Culverts – Resolved**, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to accept the low bids for the precast concrete culverts for Hall Hill and Pat's Roads from LHV Precast, Inc., subject to a review and approval of the bids by Ryan Biggs/Clark Davis as complying with the bid specification and checking of LHV references.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman Boice and moved for adoption. Carried unanimously.

**Resolution #27 of 2016: RFP for culvert installation – Resolved**, that the Town Supervisor, working with the Culvert Committee an Ryan Biggs/Clark Davis, is authorized to request proposals from qualified firms to install concrete culverts on Hall Hill and Pat's roads.

A motion was made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman Clark to approve the following budget transfers:

General Fund: to 1355.4 from Fund Balance: \$5000.00  
                  To 5132.4 from Fund Balance: \$25,000.00  
                  To 7310.4 \$12,500 and 7310.1 \$12,500 From Fund Balance: \$25,000.00  
Highway Fund: To 5132.2 From Fund Balance \$50,000

A motion was made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to approve the warrant. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to pay the bills. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman Boice to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Monica Cleveland, Ancram Town Clerk

