

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
August 20, 2015**

Present: Supervisor Arthur Bassin Councilman James Miller
 Councilman Hugh Clark Councilwoman Madeline Israel
 Town Clerk Monica Cleveland
 Highway Superintendent James MacArthur

Supervisor Arthur Bassin called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm with a salute to the flag.

A motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and have them placed on the record. Motion carried.

Supervisors Report

Town Issues

1. Financial Report – We ended July with \$940,000 million in the bank. Revenues and spending through the end of July were as expected, with spending about flat this year to date compared to the same period in 2014. Assuming no extraordinary financial events, we are on track to come in pretty much on budget for 2015, with the exception that we will add about \$400,000 in debt in September to buy two new plow trucks.

2. 2016 Tentative Budget - Preliminary indications are we will be able to reduce town taxes by about 1% (\$8,000) as part of the 2016 budget. We will review the Tentative 2016 Budget at next week's TB meeting, and will have a public hearing on the Tentative 2016 budget prior to the 9/17 TB meeting.

3. Plow truck purchase - We expect to take possession of the two new plow trucks in September. We will decide next week if we want to borrow for both or for just one. As part of the final steps in buying these trucks we will consider resolutions next week to approve the terms sheet, amortization schedule and a post-closing policy which will define the record keeping and reporting requirements related to the proposed borrowing.

4. Assessor's clerk - Assessor Leggett, Town Clerk Cleveland and I interviewed three applicants for the assessor clerk replacement. We have concluded and recommend that the best solution is to expand the Town Clerk's responsibilities to include assessor clerk duties, adding 1 additional day a week to the Town Clerk's normal Town Hall schedule. We also recommend that we create and fill another deputy town clerk position to provide backup for the Town Clerk during days she is unable to be at Town Hall. This proposal will give us assessor clerk and town clerk coverage at Town Hall four days a week, and will save \$6000 annually. A resolution to approve these recommendations will be proposed for your consideration at the TB meeting next week.

5. 82/7 Intersection - I have been in touch with NYS DOT over the past month about the safety issues at the 82/7 intersection. I have requested they consider taking action to further improve the sightlines east and west on 82 from the north side of 7, the turn radius north from 82 going west, and to lower the speed of traffic on 82 both ways to 15 mph. NYS DOT continues to take the position that there have been no accidents reported at that intersection, and they have more serious, higher traffic areas to deal with.

DOT is getting close to dealing with the retaining wall behind Simons, which is deteriorating and likely to collapse, closing down 82, if it's not repaired soon.

County Issues

1. Pine Haven – Contract of sale has been approved by the County. The NYS Board of Health approval is next, which could take 6-12 months

3. CEDC - The NYS Authorities Budget Office (ABO) has declined to do an expanded investigation of CEDC as requested by the County, but the new CEDC interim executive director, Mike Tucker, has offered to review the data requested by Supervisors Reilly and Baer with them and the County's Economic Development Committee. This is a dramatic and welcome change in CEDC "attitude", which prior to Trucker, had been to tell the County that the County had no right to review CEDC policies or practices, even though the County contributed \$440,000 a year to pay all of the CEDC's operating costs, and was the CEDC's primary "investor". In addition, the CEDC officers who were named in the April ABO report as having conflicts of interest have recently resigned or announced their intention to resign. The CEDC will elect a new slate of officers later this month, and will begin negotiations with the County to reestablish County funding for CEDC, which had been suspended earlier this year. Continued County funding will depend on establishing a contract with CEDC which provides adequate governance, control and reporting processes.

Councilwoman Israel questioned if there was a difference in the budgeting amount due to the highway maintaining the lawn. Mr. Bassin stated that the town will be using existing staff and will have to purchase machinery the first year.

Mr. Jack Seiber asked about the pool projected capital numbers. Mr. Bassin stated that the committee is not at that point yet. Mr. Boice did state at this time that this past Tuesday, with camp being closed so no campers in the pool, there were 102 people using the facility.

Fire Chief

Mr. Boice stated that they are thankful that it has been a slow summer. The department will be holding a 9/11 memorial at the firehouse. The hope is that this becomes a yearly event shared with Copake and Hillsdale.

Trucks

Mr. Bassin stated that the board is looking at a 5 year term loan about \$400,000 for the two trucks with a 1.99% annual interest rate.

Assessors Clerk Position

Mr. Bassin stated that the Town has interviewed three of the nine people who had applied for the position. At this time, Mr. Bassin suggested that the board add the assessor's clerk duties to the Town Clerk's responsibilities. The Town Clerk will add one day a week to her schedule and will be available to the assessor Thursday and Saturday when needed. She can also open the office up if needed on days she is in the building as the Town Clerk. Mr. Bassin suggested that the board appoint Jane Holdridge as a deputy Town Clerk who will be trained in assessor clerk, town clerk, building department and planning/zoning duties. Mrs. Holdridge will assist the town clerk when needed and cover days that she is unable to be in the office.

Board Member Comments

Councilwoman Israel asked if the town employees received a discount if they enrolled their children in the camp. Mr. Bassin said that this has been the policy since the inception of the camp.

FAC

Mr. Seiber stated that the committee had met the previous week. They spoke about the library and other events throughout the town.

Planning Board

Mr. Bassin noted that the town had been named in a lawsuit as a defendant due to a pending planning board matter. Mr. Bassin stated that the town attorney had suggested the town not issue a building permit requested by the defendant in this case until more information on the case is brought forward.

Assessor

Mr. Bassin stated that the town has received a 111% equalization rate for the coming year, same as the current year. Mr. Leggett continues to work with the County.

Building Manager

The Building Manager is in the process of interviewing cleaning people.

Camp

Mr. Bassin stated that camp had a great season and at this point has come in under budget.

Pool

Mr. Bassin recommended to retroactively increase the pay of the head lifeguard to \$15 an hour. This would constitute an amount around \$630 for the summer.

Volunteer Celebration

The board committed to settling on a date for the event by the next town board meeting.

Culvert Grant

Mr. Bassin stated that Mrs. Lutz feels she will hear soon on the results of the grant. There is also another grant that the town may apply for which has similar specifications.

Columbia Greene Humane Society

Mr. Bassin stated that the society will be changing their prices. There will be a \$35 a day flat fee for up to 10 days, plus \$300 if the dog is not claimed within the 10 days.

County Route 7

Mr. Bassin said that the detour for County Route 7 culvert replacement work will begin this coming Tuesday and finish this coming Thursday.

Retaining Wall

Mr. Gerry Fultz explained that the APG had a meeting with the DOT about the deteriorated retaining wall. The decision was to put up a berm. At this point the project is complete except for drainage.

Waldorf Case

Mr. Bassin stated that the town will be dropped from the lawsuit once the depositions have been filed.

Resolutions

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Clark and moved for adoption. Resolution carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #23 of 2015: Truck Loan terms sheet & amortization schedule - Resolved, that the plow truck loan terms sheet and amortization schedule outlining a loan for \$396,665, with an annual repayment of \$84,131.39 for five years, at an interest rate of 1.99%, which may be prepaid at any time without penalty, for the purpose of buying two Kenworth trucks with dump bodies, plows and wings, is approved, and it is further **Resolved**, that the Ancram Town Supervisor is authorized to do what is necessary to secure this financing as previously resolved and approved by the Ancram Town Board.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Miller and moved for adoption. Resolution carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #24 of 2015: Post-Issuance Compliance Procedure and Policy for Tax-Exempt Government Bonds - Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board adopts the "Post-Issuance Compliance Procedure and Policy for Tax-Exempt Government Bonds", and directs that the Ancram Town Supervisor and Ancram Town Clerk take whatever actions are required and necessary to implement this Procedure and Policy.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved for adoption. Resolution carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #25 of 2015: 2016 Tentative Budget Public Hearing - Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board will hold a public hearing to solicit public comments on the proposed 2016 Tentative Budget at 6.45 pm on September 17, 2015, and that the Ancram Town Clerk is directed to publish a public notice in the Town's official newspapers announcing this public hearing.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved for adoption. Resolution carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #26 of 2015: Add Assessor Clerk functions to Town Clerk - Resolved, that effective September 1, 2015 the duties and responsibilities of the Assessor's Clerk be transferred to and assumed by the Ancram Town Clerk, that the Ancram Town Clerk shall add one additional four hour day a week of scheduled time at Town Hall, and will work whatever other hours are necessary to support the Town Assessor, and will be compensated at the rate of \$16 per hour for all hours worked on Assessor matters.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved for adoption. Resolution carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #27 of 2015: Additional Deputy Town Clerk Position - Resolved, that effective September 1, 2015, 2015, the Ancram Town Board authorizes the creation of a deputy town clerk position to be paid

at the rate of \$16 per hour, to provide support for the Town Clerk, and that this position be offered to Jane Holdridge of Ancram.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved for adoption. Resolution carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #28 of 2015: Head Lifeguard Salary Adjustment - Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board approves a retroactive increase in the budgeted rate of pay for the Head Lifeguard from \$10-13 hr to \$15 per hour, and that the Ancram Town Supervisor is authorized to process a payroll adjustment to compensate the Head Lifeguard at the rate of \$15 per hour for hours worked in 2015.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to make the following budget adjustments:

From 5110.4 Repairs to 5130.4 Machinery \$3000.00.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Clark to approve the warrant and pay the bills. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Clark to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk