

**Town of Ancram  
Town Board  
Regular Meeting  
December 19, 2013**

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

---

Supervisor Arthur Bassin called the regular meeting of the Town Board to order at 7:05pm with a salute to the flag.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to approve the minutes of the previous meetings as written and placed on record. Motion carried.

**Supervisor's Report**

**Financial Report:** Revenues and expenses through November continue to come in a bit ahead of plan, and as expected. Revenues for the eleven months ending November totaled \$1,302,000, including \$811,000 in property tax receipts and \$251,000 in sales tax revenues received in January, April, July and October. Full year revenues for sales and mortgage taxes look like they will exceed the 2013 budget by \$25,000 to \$50,000. Expenses through November totaled \$1,204,000. Cash on hand at the end of November totaled \$756,000 which is up about \$90,000 since the end of 2012.

**Town Issues**

1. **Ridgeline Protection** – The ridgeline and steep slope protection law has been refereed back to the ZRC for additional review and a revised recommendation.
2. **Property & Liability Insurance** – The Financial Advisory Council has been reviewing proposals from Trident, the Town's current insurance carrier, and NYMIR, a firm specializing in municipal liability and property insurance, which asked to be allowed to bid on our policies. NYMIR was very impressive, and price competitive, but in the end, FAC and I concluded that they were probably as good, but not better than the policies and Company we have in place, so we are recommending we stay with Trident.
3. **Family Health Insurance** – Two employees have asked that the Town consider supporting health insurance for wives and families in addition to covering the employee. Some research with how this works in other towns in the area and at the County indicates it is common for a municipal employer to pay 50% of the premium cost for families under a town health insurance plan. There is a resolution for Thursday proposing that the Town considers this program.
4. **Retiree Health Insurance** – We have received a proposal for a group Medicare advantage plan from Blue Shield of NY for our three retirees that will reduce our costs for 2014 by about \$1000 per retiree. The Slaters and Shufelts have spent time going over the plan with the Blue Shield representative, and are comfortable switching to this Blue Shield program.

**County Issues**

1. **Airport** – The Airport Committee has been meeting to evaluate the proposed acquisition of land adjacent to the Airport to allow a \$3-4 million expansion of the runway safety zone, 95% of which will be paid for by the FAA and NYS. It appears that there are about 125-150 jet landings at the airport each year which require the expanded safety zone, out of about 7500 to 10,000 total landings each year. The Committee is looking at two options which would allow the safety zone requirement to be met either by shortening the 5350 foot runway to 5000 feet or 4500 feet. Both these options appear to be possible to implement more quickly, less expensively, with less disruption to the neighbors around the airport, and without the need for acquiring adjacent land in an eminent domain action. The Committee is likely to make its recommendations to the BOS in February or March.
2. **2014 County Budget** – The County has adopted a budgeted that increases county property tax by 2%, assumes no salary increases for County employees, and assumes the Pine Haven nursing home, which has been losing approximately \$2 million per year, will break even in 2014. The County budget assumes sales taxes in 2014 will be equal to the 2013 number, anticipates a continued improvement in the delinquent property tax collection situation, and holds staffing at current levels.

In regards to the Town Employee Manual, Councilwoman Israel stated that she would like to see an increase in the allotted bereavement time.

Councilman Clark asked if the FAC would be going through the Financial Policy. Mr. Bassin stated that they would.

### **Highway Department**

The Highway department received bids from the following vendors, for 2014 supplies: Red Wing Properties, Century Aggregates, A Colarusso, Amenia Sand and Gravel, Callanan Industries and Package Pavement Co. Mr. MacArthur asked that the board accept the bids from Red Wing, Colarusso and Amenia Sand and Gravel. A motion was made by Councilman Clark to this effect and seconded by Councilman Miller. Motion carried.

The Full bids are on file in the Town Clerks office.

A thank you was offered by Town Clerk Cleveland to Gerald Roberts for the making and donation of a drop box for used American flags.

### **Planning Board**

Ann Rader addressed the board about roadside clearing issues. She cited a study on culverts in an estuary district. The person in the study will come to Ancram if it is wished, to look at the culverts. Mr. Bassin will look into this.

### **Youth Commission**

The Youth Commission will be holding a Christmas Party December 20, 2013 at the Ancram Town Hall.

### **CAC**

The CAC is continuing to work on the biodiversity map and will be looking at the culvert issue.

### **ZRC**

The ZRC will be meeting with the planning board on January 6, 2014.

### Heritage Resources

Mr. Bassin announced that \$17,600 has been collected thus far. He stated that the committee is looking to do studies of work needed on the churches in order to apply for grants.

### Assessors

The Basic star reapplications are due by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. Ag forms are due by March 1, 2014.

The FAC will be looking at the fee schedule.

Mr. Bassin stated that there is a question that has arisen about supporting the burying of power lines. He has circulated the note to the Town Board. Councilman Clark asked how the town is to show support. Mr. Bassin stated that the board can send a letter of support. Councilman Thomas stated that he does not support sending a letter of support. He feels that this is process. Mr. Bassin will do some investigating and will return with more info on this issue next meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Israel to make the following General Budget adjustment. Motion carried:

To: 1220.4 \$1,000; 1620.4 \$3,000; 9019.8 \$400 From 1010.4 \$1,000; Fund Balance \$3,400.

A motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to make the following Highway adjustment. Motion carried:

To: 5130.4 \$31,157; 5142.4 \$1,500 From 5140.4 \$3,138; 5110.1 \$17,574; 5110.4 \$11,945.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Clark and moved for adoption:

**Resolution #28 of 2013: - Amended 2014 Retiree Health Insurance Program:** Resolved that the Town Supervisor is authorized to enter into an agreement with Blue Shield of NY to provide eligible retirees with a group health insurance plan at a per retiree cost in 2014 of \$3648, which will be supplemented by an annual payment not to exceed \$450 to per retiree to cover medical and drug copays.

Resolution carried.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved for adoption:

**Resolution #29 of 2014: 2014 Employee Family Health Insurance:** Resolved, that eligible employees may include wives and children under the Town of Ancram health insurance plan so long as they pay 50% of the premiums paid by the Town for this coverage, and for all deductibles and copays for the coverage selected

Resolution carried.

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

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica Cleveland  
Ancram Town Clerk