

**Town of Ancram  
Town Board  
Regular Meeting  
February 14, 2008**

**Present:** Supervisor Thomas Dias                      Councilman James Bryant  
                 Councilman Robert Podris                      Councilman Gerald Roberts  
                 Councilman John MacArthur                      Town Clerk Monica Cleveland  
                 Town Attorney Jason Shaw

**Others:** Paul DeLuca, Joan DeLuca, Emilia Roth, George Wittlinger Sr., Bill Morey, Gene Morey, James Miller, Perry Miller, Fred Schneeberger, Jim Stickle, Robert Seymour, Mary Seymour, Casey Miller, Betty Boyles, Rich Bitel, Ron VanTassel, Clara VanTassel, Joan Roberts, Madeline Israel, Nancy Bryant, Robert Wilcox, Margaret Reed, Fay Reed, Mark Reed, Leah Wilcox, Kenneth Legget. Mary Faith Boice, Linda Dias, Bill Grossi, Maseline Grossi, Gerald Kluge, Reginald Kluge, Lynn Miller, David Boice, James MacArthur, Ron Brant, Jean Brant

---

Supervisor Dias called the regular meeting to order at 7:35 PM following the Public Hearing on the Aged Exemption.

Councilman Podris made a motion seconded by Councilman Bryant to accept the January 10, 2008 Year End Organizational Minutes, the January 10, 2008 Board meeting Minutes, the January 12, 2008 Emergency Meeting Minutes regarding the Bookkeeper and the January 19, 2008 Emergency Meeting Minutes regarding the Town of Ancram Highway Garage, with the amendment as follows to the January 8, 2008 Year End Minutes “ Councilman Roberts asked Town of Ancram ZEO John Florio if all of the monies he stated he received had been deposited in the bank. Mr. Florio stated yes, all of the monies had been deposited.” Motion to accept the minutes as amended unanimously carried.

Supervisor Dias gave the following financial report.

<b>General:</b>	Beginning Balance:	\$187,231.13
(#327924)	Withdrawals:	\$4,000.00
	Interest:	\$198.64
	Ending Balance:	\$183,429.77
<b>General:</b>	Beginning Balance:	\$32,356.36
(#2056771)	Withdrawals:	\$50,694.81
	Deposits:	\$39,489.06
	Ending Balance:	\$21,150.61
<b>T&amp;A:</b>	Beginning Balance:	\$5,129.41
	Deposits:	\$9,583.93
	Withdrawals:	\$6,125.14
	Ending Balance:	\$8,588.20
<b>Highway:</b>	Beginning Balance:	\$3,297.00
	Deposits:	\$44,927.99

Withdrawals:	\$15,003.10
Ending Balance:	\$33,221.89

A motion was made by Councilman Bryant and seconded by Councilman Podris to accept the Supervisors Financial Report. Motion carried.

Councilman Roberts asked why the FEMA money had been placed in the Highway Account. Supervisor Dias stated that this was where the accountant had told him to put the money. As for the Hall Hill project, Gellibrand's office has filled out required paperwork for the project but has yet to hear back. Councilman Bryant stated that FEMA needs to come back to the site. Councilman Roberts asked if there had been anymore proposals submitted for the bookkeeping position. Mr. Dias stated that there were none at this time but a proposal was being drawn up and an advertisement was set to be published in the paper.

### **Correspondence**

1. Mrs. Joan Roberts: Mrs. Roberts has decided at this time to retire from her position as the clerk of the Planning and Zoning boards. She set March 19, 2008 as her last day. Councilman Podris thanked Mrs. Roberts on behalf of the board for her years of service.
2. Twin Counties Culture Club
3. Camp Anne: A thank you to the town on behalf of the AHRC. A donation check for \$5,000.00 to the town.

### **Privilege of the Floor**

Mr. Jim Stickle asked where the Camp Anne donation will go. He suggested giving it to the Youth Commission. Mrs. Israel stated that she thought the check was because the camp was not on the tax rolls. Mr. Dias stated that this was correct and the money would be placed in the General account.

Mr. Jim Stickle asked if the board had decided to move any of the unexpended funds from 2007. Councilman Bryant stated that a decision on where to put the funds had not been made. Councilman Roberts stated that the money he would like to see the money placed in the capital account. He stated that the money received by the Town for mortgage taxes was about \$20,000.00 less for 2007 then what was anticipated. What will be received for 2008 is not yet known. He stated that when the board feels comfortable with the 2008 revenues, then money will be moved.

Mrs. Lynn Miller asked if a proposal had been accepted from Edella MacArthur for the bookkeeping position. Mr. Dias stated one had not and that an add will be placed in the paper for proposals. Mrs. Miller asked what the town is doing in the interim period. Mr. Dias stated that an accountant Mr. Fitzgerald, is handling the bills and payroll for the next three months.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Dias asked for a report from the cell tower committee. Mr. Roth stated that following a call he made to Pine Plains Supervisor Greg Pulver, he contacted JNS Enterprises. Mr. Roth introduced Jim Jeffreys. Mr. Jeffreys stated that he has been working exclusively with municipalities for the past seven years. His company will construct a tower on town owned land with a contract stating that his company will have a 25 year life of the tower for management. The tower will meet the town codes and compliances and the JNS will maintain the tower. Councilman Roberts asked for a timeline. Mr. Jeffreys stated that he would meet with the town and look at the property. Then a contract would be signed and the tower built. Two cell companies will be contracted prior to the building of the tower. Mr. Shaw asked who pays for the tower. Mr. Jeffreys stated that JNS will build the tower with a maintenance contract with the town and 50/50 split of the revenues with the town. The companies will take into consideration the main highways of 22 and the Taconic Parkway. One acre of land will be needed. The tower will be made of galvanized steel on a raised concrete base. Mr. Dias asked that the committee that is already formed, Mr. Bob Roth, Mr. Ryan Kluge, and Mr. Paul Spencer, move forward with their research into the project and return within three months to give a report. Mr. Terry Boyles asked if the tower has to be on Town Property. Mr. Jeffreys stated that he only will build on town property.

Mr. Art Bassin addressed the board. He stated that the Comprehensive plan received 434 questionnaires back. a 28% response rate. The committee is at this time reviewing the surveys and plans to develop and analyze a cross-tabs to more fully understand the data. The committee prepared for the board a grant totaling \$25,000.00. This grant will support the development of a Farmland Protection Plan.

The following Resolution was moved for adoption by Councilman Bryant and seconded by Councilman Podris. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #7 of 2008: Authorizing the Supervisor to Submit an application to the NYS department of Ag and Markets for state assistance payments for a municipal agricultural and farmland protection plan development.**

WHEREAS, the Town is desirous of submitting an application for State support payments to assist in the development of an Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan for the purposes of inventorying, analyzing and planning for the preservation of agriculture and farmlands, as major tasks to be included as components of the Town of Ancram Comprehensive Plan, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 from the Office for Small Cities for up to 75% of the Farmland Protection Plan's cost of \$333,333.00;

WHEREAS, THE Town does hereby commit to provide 25% in public matching funds in an amount not to exceed \$8,333.00

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, THAT the Town of Ancram is authorized and directed to submit an application for financial assistance under the Municipal Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan Development program and is authorized to execute all other

documents necessary for the implementation of this work, and is also authorized to execute all financial and/or administrative processes relating to the grant program.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Town of Ancram does hereby commit to the 25% in matching grant funds to be raised from public funding resources.

Mr. Dias asked the board members their feelings on the proposed Noise Ordinance. Mr. Jason Shaw stated that the time for comments would be during a Public Hearing on the Law. No comment should be given at this time. If the majority of the board they are ready for the next step, he suggested setting a public hearing. Councilman Bryant made a motion to set a public hearing Local Law #1 of 2008, Noise Ordinance. Councilman Roberts stated that he felt that the board should also set a public hearing on the proposed Leash Law. Councilman Bryant made a motion to amend his previous motion to include the Town Board set a public hearing for both proposed Local Law #1 of 2008 and Local Law #2 of 2008; Leash Law. Motion seconded by Councilman Roberts. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Bryant and seconded by Councilman Podris to set the public hearing for the proposed Local Law #1 of 2008; Control of Noise, for Thursday February 28, 2008 at 7:00pm at the Ancram Town Hall. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Bryant and seconded by Councilman Podris to set the public Hearing for the proposed Local Law #2 of 2008; Control of Dogs, for Thursday March 20, 2008 at 6:30 pm followed by the regular March Town Board meeting.

The following resolution was moved for adoption by Councilman Podris and seconded by Councilman MacArthur.

**RESOLUTION #8 OF 2008: CHANGING OF THE OFFICIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING NIGHT**

RESOLVED: That the Town Board of the Town of Ancram does hereby change the official meeting night for the Ancram Town Board to the Third Thursday of the month unless otherwise specified.

Resolution carried.

Mr. Dias stated that the Town of Ancram Planning Board has asked the Town Board to appoint James Stickle and Colleen Lutz to the board. A motion was made by Councilman Bryant and seconded by Councilman MacArthur to appoint Mr. Jim Stickle to the unexpired term of Mr. Larry Eckler (2012) and Colleen Lutz to the vacant 2008 expiration seat. Motion carried. A motion was made by Councilman Roberts and seconded by Councilman Podris to appoint Jamie Purinton as the Chairperson of the Town of Ancram Planning Board. Motion carried.

Mr. Dias stated that Mr. Bill Grossi is willing to sit on the Board of Assessment review. A motion was made by Councilman Bryant and seconded by Councilman Roberts to appoint Mr. Bill Grossi to the Board of Assessment Review with the term expiring in

2008. Mr. Dias stated that a second seat is still open and that Mr. Ron Brant is thinking over the decision of serving.

Mrs. Leah Wilcox stated that she would like to give her 2007 report due to the fact that she was out of town for the Year End meeting. In 2007 the ZBA heard on appeal for an area variance. Going into 2008 the ZBA has 3 applications to consider; two being area variances and one a special use permit.

## **New Business**

Highway Superintendent James MacArthur addressed the board. He stated that there are a few large purchases he would like to Town Board to consider. 1.) A 8' York Rake with a three point hitch attachment for use on the tractor. \$2,600.00 2.) Brush Chipper, ordered to replace the stolen chipper 3.) 2008 F250 Pickup truck to replace the 1997 ford Pickup Truck. \$20,000.00 4.) 1984 Oshkosh that the town of Gallatin is selling. Would replace the 1977 Paystar the Town sold at county auction in 2006.

Mr. Dias stated that he has learned that if the town buys a pickup truck on state bid, a much lower cost, they can then sell it in a year for more then what initially purchased for and make a profit. Mr. Shaw asked if the town of Gallatin is going to seek bids on the Oshkosh. Mr. MacArthur did not think so; the price was what Ben Funk had offered them. Mr. Shaw stated that a verification of the offering price should be received before any transaction takes place and that a representative of the board should look at the machine. Councilman Roberts stated that he did not understand why the town board is receiving the list of materials now and why it was not ready for budget time. He stated that most of the 2008 budget increase was for the highway and at that time this should have been addressed. The Town Board had decided to begin an equipment rotation schedule and to buy a 1984 machine defeats the purpose of this. Councilman Podris stated that the chipper is already ordered and is a replacement machine. The new pickup truck would be needed before next winter. Mr. Shaw stated that the board make the determination which pieces of equipment are needed and submit them for bids. Mr. Dias asked that Mr. MacArthur return to the board with definite specifications on what is needed.

Mr. Shaw stated that the complaint of the Town of Ancram against the Clums has been signed. Other then that information, Mr. Shaw stated that it is a legal matter and needs to be discussed in Executive Session.

Highway Superintendent MacArthur gave an overview of the Hall Hill Road cave in. After the cave in, it took Mr. MacArthur four months to have a FEMA representative meet him on hall hill. In August they agreed to help the situation financially. They agreed on \$171,000.00. The worksheet signed was for the \$171,000.00. Because this was in August and the project has to take place from June through September it was to late to begin the project. Mr. MacArthur filed for a one year extension. After the holidays a check for \$44,000.00 arrived. FEMA and SEMA stated that in August they knew Ancram was not going to get the \$171,000.00 Gellibrand's office has been to the site and has offered help. Senator Saland is to be called. At this time the DEC has

begun to draw up the required permits to be in the brook in June. The project goes out for bids in the next 2 to 3 weeks. Mr. MacArthur stated that the project has to be done this year because FEMA only allows one one year extension. Councilman Bryant stated that if the town was to pay for the balance, there would be no extra money for emergencies. He stated that the Board needs a plan. Councilman Podris stated that the project may have to be bonded. Councilman Roberts stated that Morris Associates have had several monthly vouchers in the past months, above the \$8,000.00 formally agreed on. He would like to see a cost estimate from them for the entire project. A motion was made by Councilman Roberts seconded by Councilman Bryant to allow the payment of voucher number H2-2, Morris Associates. Motion carried.

## **New Business**

Mr. Dias stated that he had unofficially met with the Ancram Paper Mill. He stated that they would like to work with the town to keep the mill working with available jobs. Mr. Bassin, ho has met with the mill to discuss the Comprehensive Plan, stated that the mill would like to expand but has no land. Councilman Roberts stated that this came up a few years back. Mrs. Simons stated that the pool was built be town people and that the mill helped. The ball field was dedicated in memory of Wally Blass. Mr. Dias will approach the mill and ask for a presentation.

Mr. Dias stated that the Town Board has done a walk through of the Town Highway garage. He would like to establish a committee to look further at the situation and to give a presentation. The committee is as follows; Terry Boyles, Perry Boyles, Carol Bryant, Frank Martucci, and Bob Mayhew. The committee has a three month window to report back. The board would like to see some work accomplished before the next Board meeting.

The Columbia County Youth Bureau is in need of a representative from the Town of Ancram. Mr. Dias suggested Mr. David Boice, an Ancram Youth Commission member.

A motion was made by Councilman Bryant and seconded by Councilman Podris to allow Mr. Dias to attend training in New York City at a cost not to exceed \$800.00. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryant stated that the Town Hall computers need to be looked at. Mr. Dias stated that he would speak to Baxter Stickle at the county. Town Clerk Monica Cleveland stated that the work that is required by the new Town Website is overwhelming and that it is taking time from her Town Clerk duties. A motion was made by Councilman Bryant and seconded by Councilman Podris to allow Technology 4-All to be hired to help maintain the Town of Ancram website for a period of six months. Motion carried.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Bryant and seconded by Councilman Roberts:

**RESOLUTION #9 OF 2008: Setting of Maximum Income Levels for the Aged Exemption.**

RESOLVED: The Town Board of the Town of Ancram sets \$24,000 w/ss to \$32,400 @5% as the Maximum Income Levels for Aged Exemptions for the year 2008.  
Motion carried.

Councilman Roberts asked if the Town Board has received the Highway Contract for the 2008 year. Mr. Dias stated he had only the County contract.

A motion was made by Councilman Podris seconded by Councilman Bryant to pay the February bills. Motion carried.

Mr. Dias adjourned the meeting to executive session for a building department issue.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Councilman MacArthur and seconded by Councilman Podris to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the regular board meeting.

Councilman Roberts stated that the lock to the Town Clerks office need to be changed due to the sensitive documents kept within the office and the fact that there is unauthorized personnel entering. The board agreed this should be done and Mr. Wittlinger, building manager will be contacted.

Councilman Roberts asked Mr. Dias if he had asked Mr. Wittlinger to step down from his post as building manager. Mr. Dias stated that he did not ask him to step down that he did not know if Mr. Wittlinger wanted the job any longer. At this time, Mr. Wittlinger wants to continue to be the building manager. Councilman Roberts stated that Mr. Dias is one of a board of five and that this is not in his jurisdiction.

Mr. Dais asked if the board would allow the Town Hall to have a dumpster. Councilman Podris stated the reason the building does not have a dumpster is because it will be unprotected from others using it.

Councilman Bryant made a motion seconded by Councilman Podris to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.