

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
February 19, 2010**

Present:	Supervisor Arthur Bassin	Councilman James Miller
	Councilman John MacArthur	Councilman Christopher Thomas
	Councilwoman Madeline Israel	Town Clerk Monica Cleveland

Supervisor Bassin called the regular meeting to order following the closing of the public hearing.

Mr. Bassin gave the following Supervisors Financial Summary:

Financial Issue-

Mr. Bassin stated that under Financial Issues, he would like the board to discuss an issue which has been brought to his attention regarding the RoeJan Library. Mr. Bassin stated that he was made aware by the Library through a letter from them, that they have not received the budgeted yearly donation from the town in the amount of \$2500.00, for the past three years, 2008, 2009 and 2010. Mr. Bassin stated that he decided to hold up the check to allow the board to discuss the issue and make a decision. Councilman Miller stated that it was his opinion to give them the \$2500.00. He stated that it was not the towns fault that the library did not ask for the money the other years. Councilwoman Israel stated that she agreed with Councilman Miller. She stated that the board should send what was budgeted for this year. Councilman MacArthur stated that the library is building an extravagant building. He asked for a show of hands of who uses the Hillsdale Library. He felt the town should give \$5000.00. Councilman Thomas agreed with the \$2500.00 figure. Mary Anne Roche questioned that the money was budgeted each year yet not given to them. Councilman MacArthur stated that the library never asked for the money. Mrs. Leah Wilcox gave a reason as to why the town is financially tied to them. She stated that when mid Hudson Library system was created it divided the county up into regions and assigned a library to each town. The Town of Ancram was assigned to the Roe Jan library. Mr. Ned Schnider of the Library, Mr. Bassin stated, wants to talk to the board. There is on the table a possible referendum for the future which if passed would make it a requirement that the Town of Ancram will have to pay the library \$15,000.00 a year. The Town will have to vote to approve the referendum. Mrs. Wilcox stated that it is her understanding that they will become a taxing authority like the fire district. Nick Nickerson said a library will become a very important place where children can go. Mrs. Donna Hoyt stated that the board is not seeing that there are 4 school districts and that the children get involved with the library which is associated with their school. Adriene Citrin stated that there are people in Ancram who use Pine Plains and Millerton Libraries but that these libraries are being supported by their local towns. She felt the town should support it the library. It was brought up that the libraries are all part of the Mid Hudson Library System. Mr. Bob Mayhew suggested supporting all three libraries seeing how people pay school taxes to all three schools. Councilman Thomas stated that he felt the library should have done a referendum before beginning the building of the new structure. Mrs. Wilcox stated that when the library approached the town on the subject in the past the board did not want to proceed with it. Mr. Wilcox stated that the board has to evaluated the services provided to the residents and what service the library provides. Ms. Jane Shannon reminded the board that some businesses in town benefited from building the structure and that she heard that community could use that space for community events.

A motion was made by Councilman MacArthur to give a \$5,000.00 donation to the Roe Jan Library. Mr. Bassin asked for a second. There was no second to the motion.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller to give a donation of \$2,500.00 to the Roe Jan Library. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Israel. 4 ayes (Councilman Miller, Councilman Thomas, Councilwoman Israel and Supervisor Bassin) 1 nay (Councilman MacArthur) Motion carried.

County Issues:

Mr. Bassin stated that there was nothing new to report on Rockefeller Bridge. The Kohls package has been denied because the application was not attractive for the County. A County pay increase of 3% was cranked back to 2%. The 2% was approved for non elected officials but not approved elected officials. Mr. Bassin stated that there will be union contract negotiation meeting in the future. Mr. Bassin stated that he voted against the increase because the town of Ancram gave no raises to its employees this year.

Clarifications from prior meeting:

Mr. Bassin stated in regards to the DEC and the Town Garage, the DEC stated that if the construction is outside the wetland buffer boundary the town is on its own and was free to do what it wanted to without DEC oversight. Mr. Bassin stated that he made several calls to state and county offices in regards to the Comp Plan and asked for specific comments regarding the adoption of the plan prior to the completion of the zoning revisions. Mr. Bassin stated that the information he has received is that now most towns pass their Comprehensive Plan first, and then revise zoning. The information was highly in favor of passing the Plan at this time. Mr. Bassin stated that in regards to the ZEO/CEO certifications, Mr. Hunt is one hour short due to a paperwork issue and that by the end of March that hour would be completed and that this is within the rules. Mr. Ferratto supplied a letter from the State of New York which stated that he is certified through this year. Certain paperwork was not filed with the state on time to have their names included on the State website and that if received after the cut off date the information does not get placed on the site.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Thomas to approve the 12/17/09, 01/4/10 and 1/21/10 minutes as read and have them placed on the record. Motion approved.

Highway Report for January-

Highway Superintendent MacArthur stated that the Highway Department spent much of the month of January plowing snow. They made space for the sand and salt pile by moving gravel from behind the milk house and caused much controversy by doing this. Mr. MacArthur stated that there were some expensive breakdowns that he had not planned for. He suggested that residents use caution when traveling on Poole Hill road due to some bad holes. Ms. Libby McKee stated that she was stuck in Washington DC during the blizzard of 2010 and was shocked at pickup trucks being used to plow Penn. Ave. She stated that she was proud of Ancram for how well they handle the snow conditions, much better than DC. Mr. Abram Kells asked if the town had begun the contamination tests. Mr. Bassin stated that the town has just hired a firm to do soil tests. Once done, they will take 30 - 45 days for the results. If contamination is found the town will be told how to remediate it.

Mr. Nick Nickerson asked questioned the acre of land that may be donated/bought and how many acres does original have and how much this will give the town in total. Mr. Bassin stated that the town now has 2.92 acres and the addition land will give an 1 acre increase. This will mean that with the wet lands in consideration, the usable amount will be 3 acres an increase of 50%. Councilman MacArthur commented that by county standards this is not enough land. Jeanie Lilley stated that she went with a person who walked the proposed acre and that she was under the understanding that the acre was not acceptable. Mr. Bassin stated that if the existing site works the Garage committee will recommend it, and if it doesn't they will not recommend it. Jeanie Lilley asked if the committee is looking other places. Mr. Bassin said no. The town will not be acquiring any new road frontage, the town knows the needed amount of storage and that there are five trucks which need housing. Mr. Bassin stated that there are only two options, the Mathews property and the current site. Mr. Bassin stressed that the Matthews site was not on the table. Mrs. Leah Wilcox asked if the new building will accommodate all of the trucks. Mr. Bassin stated that the committee is looking at two options. The first is a 8000 sqft building with the trucks a parking inside at a diagonal. The second option is a standard 5 door building of 6000 sq ft. The Highway Superintendent would prefer the open space building. The committee is doing all the necessary work to determine the right alternative. Mary Anne Roche questioned the town not having enough acres compared to county standards. Councilman MacArthur stated that there is no facility in the county smaller then Ancram. LeRoy Mayhew asked if the cost of the extra acre and the building are over the Mathews price, will the town go back to Mr. Mathews to negotiate. Councilman MacArthur stated that the board endured two years of lawsuits. Mr. Jim Stickle stated that the town received a petition signed by 230 people requesting that the town place the Mathews site on a referendum. He stated that the current committee is repeating everything the first committee went through for years and were only opposed by a petition signed by 17 people. Mr. Bassin stated that the Town Board is committed to staying at current site and will come up with a plan that they feel makes sense for the residents as a whole and when they come to this decision, the board will allow the votes their opinion through a vote. Mrs. Hoyt asked if the board could put both projects up for a vote together. Jane Shannon felt that this would have the voters voting in an uninformed way. If it is voted down she felt something else will come to replace it. Mrs. Lisa Stickle asked if Mr. Bassin had looked at the Matthews property and he stated he has not. Mrs. Hoyt stated that she remembered Mr. Bassin saying that the Matthews property was the only choice. Mr. Bassin reminded her that people are allowed to change their minds, as he did. Mrs. Clara VanTassel stated that she felt that the discussion had to stop at that point. Nick Nickerson asked the cost of Matthews property. It was explained that it started out at 750,000 and ended at 500,000.00 without the improvements the town would have to make to the property.

Committee reports

Planning & Zoning Board-

Leah Wilcox represented the committees. She stated that the clerk Suzanne Bressler was resigning. After placing a public notice. the boards received one application from Samantha Langton. Mrs. Wilcox stated that she had a great resume and great references. Mrs. Wilcox asked that the board appoint her as the clerk with a two week overlap for Suzanne to allow for training. The last date Suzanne will work will be March 3rd. Mrs. Wilcox also stated that the chairs of the boards are designing in house training so that those on the boards do not have to travel. A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Miller to appoint Samantha Langton as the Planning Board and Zoning Board clerk. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to allow

current clerk Suzanne Bressler to remain appointed for a two week overlap period for training of the new clerk. Motion carried.

Ethics Committee-

Mr. Jack Lindsey, chair, stated that the committee will be having their first full meeting on Wednesday February 24, 2010. He stated that the committee would like to have 5 members. Mr. Lindsey stated that the town is being overseen by the County Ethics law at this time because the old law was suppose to be reenacted every five years and had not been. Mr. Hoyt asked if there was an Ethics issue that came in before the new law was finished, would it have to be judged using the old law? Mr. Lindsey stated that Ancram is protected by the State and County law. Mike Citrin asked about penalties. Mr. Lindsey stated that most committees recommend to the board and then the board makes the decision on the penalty.

Grants committee-

Libby McKee, Chair, addressed the board. She stated that the committee meets on the second Thursday of each month. She stated that the town received a recent grant from NYSERTA. At this time the committee is working on applying for grants to fix the intersection of State route 82 and County Route 7. The committee will be appealing to Senator Saland's office on behalf of this project. The committee is asking that the board pass a resolution in support of the project. At this time the committee is working with the Lebarge Group and Morris Asso. The committee is looking to improve the sight distance. Linda Bowen asked why there couldn't be a four way stop. Libby stated that NYS feels that there is not enough traffic at the intersection. Kay MacArthur stated that in 40 years of working at the Ancram Tavern, she only witnessed one accident. Donna Hoyt asked if the town has a viable survey map for the Tin Smiths House. Mr. Bassin stated that the County sent survey maps. Mr. Bassin stated that the engineers stated that the vibration from the work needed to carve back retaining wall would hurt the house. Bob Mayhew stated that the town needed to use Local Law #1 of 2007, building and fire code, to take down the house if it is unsafe, and then fix the corner. Mr. Bassin stated that if the town started to condemn run down, unsafe buildings under Local Law 1 of 2007 that there would be a lot of buildings affected, and the town had to move carefully in this matter.

Youth Commission-

Mr. Bob Wilcox stated that the youth commission has met with the Community Grants Committee and spoke about potential funding requirements for grant requests for a recreation plan and facilities. This project will span a couple of years to consolidate the recreational facilities and will include a series of local meetings. The first stage is looking at developing a plan and looking for the funding to develop the plan.

Communications Committee-

Councilwoman Israel stated that the committee is looking at revamping the website, hopefully putting on the site information residents would like to see are up there. She asked for suggestions on what people wanted in the newsletter. Some of these suggestions included having financial figures included, committee summaries, youth commission functions and the progress of the highway garage committee.

Garage Committee

Mr. Emile Racenet, Chair, stated that monies spent so far have been for the firm hired to do the soil sampling and for a land survey. The committee will have to do a topographic map. Before any decisions are made, the committee will receive an approximate price from the engineer hired. He stated that the Committee is looking at tearing down the milk factory house which will give room for the salt shed and to place the building. He stated that Empire Geo Services will do the

soil samples. Lisa Stickle asked if the Basket Ball court will come out or if it would be replaced. Councilman MacArthur stated that the kids in Boston Corners have no recreation facilities either. Mr. Ron Brant stated that the material wouldn't have been moved onto the ball court if the DEC hadn't been called by a resident, turning in the town. Jane Shannon questioned the Milk House being taken down and if it was being considered historic as a historic place? She wondered if the town would incorporate a plan to relocate it. Clara VanTassel stated that it was being considered but couldn't be designated if it was moved. Emile stated that taking the building down makes putting the garage there more feasible. In beginning the committee considered putting the new garage along side of it. Abram Kells asked if the committee will include the ramp into the salt shed. Ron Brant stated that this would be getting to the buffer zone. Mary Anne asked if the old scales will be saved? It was stated they would. Jenniffer Nickerson stated that it is not safe to allow the children to be playing by the garage. Mr. Bassin stated that this was an issue for the Youth commission.

Revaluation committee-

Councilman Thomas stated that the committee has had 2 preliminary meetings. Ken and Mary Faith have showed them the assessment cards, the land tables and a lot of intricate information. Their next meeting Thursday 2/25 at 7:00pm and they are looking for volunteers to join the committee. He stressed that the committee is not looking at individual assessments or numbers. Mr. Bassin stated that there have been questions regarding an assessment formula and that after research, he is finding that this formulas is buried in the NYS assessment software program. The committee will work to decode the system. Mr. Thomas said that Suzette Booe of County Real Property will be at the next meeting. Bob Mayhew stated that Ken Leggett said that he would have a sample of how the assessment process is done. Mr. Thomas stated that Ken has not done this yet and will ask him to do it. Lathem Mehaffey asked if the objective is to explain the process or decide to do another reval. Mr. Thomas stated that he does not know yet and are trying to see how the situation pans out. Mr. Bassin explained that the state recommends that the towns do revals every five years.

Conservation Advisory Committee-

Colleen Lutz stated that the committee has met twice, once at the garage site. They have been working with the Garage Committee regarding the buffer zone.

Comprehensive Plan Committee-

Mr. Bassin stated that the committee has met with the petition group. None of the signers of the petition attended the meeting. The committee felt that the petitioners concerns will be clarified through the Zoning Revisions. The Comp Plan Committee recommends to the Town Board that the Plan be sent to the County.

Zoning Revisions Committee-

The zoning revisions committee will meet on March 1, 2010 at 7:00. The first meeting will include mostly discussions on how the committee will operate.

Senior Commission

The Senior Commission will meet at the Town Hall next Thursday.

Cell Phones-

Mr. Roth stated that the town met with Congressman Murphy on February 8, 2010 at the town hall. They were not to happy about it the situation and AT&T, and that within 2 weeks they will find out what is going on. Mr. Roth stated that he received a letter from Jim Jeffreys stating that

the location on Westfall road in Taghkanic and has been approved by AT&T. The tower will have a radius of 3-4 miles and will encompass Ancram and Wiltsie Bridge but not Ancramdale.

Emergency Preparedness-

Joanne Dwy and David Boice met with Mr. Bassin. They will focus in the next few months on finalizing the emergency preparedness plan and will be looking into upgrading the communications system. There is the possibility of receiving grant funds radios through the Homeland Community Grants. Sue Bassin asked if the Rescue squad is included with the plan. Mr. Bassin stated that they are listed as a resource in the plan.

BAR-

There are 4 people who have volunteered for the open position and will be interviewed in the next month. May 4th training will be held at the Greenport Town Hall.

Building Manager-

Mr. Bassin stated that there has been a lot of people volunteering for the painting of Town Hall in response to Jane Moore's e-mail requesting help with this effort. Mr. Bassin stated that the wood work would have to be fixed prior to the pain project.

ZEO-

Recommendation has come from the Building department that there be a fire inspection fee of \$50 and a Operating fee of \$25.00. Mr. Bassin stated that the board will vote on this next month. Donna Hoyt stated that as a business owner they have to have a State Fire Inspection costing \$300.00 and \$75.00 for the boiler inspection, done each year by the state. Mr. Bassin said he would check with Mr. Ferratto to see if we needed to do fire inspections if there were already state fire inspections done. Mr. Bassin stated that the ZEO will inspect businesses of certain sizes, a dozen in town. Bob Mayhew stated that the town can opt not to do be the inspectors for this. Mr. Bassin stated that if town opts out, then the County does it or the State.

Animal Control-

Gary Deitch stated that he would like to see the town help the NHN with their feral cat program.

Alander Trail Head Parking-

Councilman MacArthur stated that there are a lot of traffic and a lot of on road parking in the area of the trail head and with the use that the trail receives, Mr. MacArthur stated that the State needs to upgrade their parking. He asked that there be a letter drafted from the town board in support of this. Libby McKee stated that she has brought this issue up at the county level and that it is in the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreational Department. She suggested approaching them.

Mr. Bassin stated that the Board of Elections is looking at closing Ancramdale as a voting site. The reason being that the building is not handicapped accessible. The other issue is that the State and county are consolidating the polling sites. If this goes through, both districts will vote in Ancram. He wants to know if the board agrees to this or wishes to fight it. Jane Shannon spoke in favor of consolidation. Bob Mayhew suggested asking the residents who vote in Ancramdale. Avery Ditter, of the church, stated that there is no way, with the churches membership, they can afford building a ramp. Bonnie Hunt asked if there was savings to the town to have it combined. Mr. Bassin stated that there were no savings. Donna Hoyt asked if the town has thought about having a temp ramp. She stated that she feels the church may need the money paid to use it.

Mr. Bassin stated that the Town Board will be auditing the Court office books on Saturday 2/20 at 10:00am.

Mr. Bassin stated that he is working with the bookkeeper to come up with a simpler pay date schedule for town employees.

Councilwoman Israel spoke about the feral cat project. Neighbors Helping Neighbors is hoping that the town can contribute to the cat program. Ms. Ditto pays \$35.00 per cat. Nancy Bryant stated that Ms. Ditto has taken care of 200 cats and that the costs are split between Neighbors and another group. Mr. Bassin stated that the board needs to know how much money talking about. Donna Hoyt questioned if this was the towns responsibility.

RESOLUTION #25 OF 2010

RESOLVED: That the Town Board of the Town of Ancram, with the assistance of the Comprehensive Planning Committee, start the process necessary to adopt the Comprehensive Plan, including submitting the Plan to the County Planning Department for its 30 day review and conducting the required SEQRA review.

Motion made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Thomas to pass Resolution #25 of 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #26 OF 2010: INTENT TO BE LEAD AGENCY ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND IDENTIFICATION OF A TYPE I ACTION

WHEREAS, the Town Board has duly appointed a Comprehensive Planning Committee to draft a new comprehensive plan for the Town of Ancram; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has drafted this plan and has held multiple public workshops and two public hearings pursuant to Town Law 272-a on April 25 and June 22, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has submitted a draft plan to the Town Board of the Town of Ancram for their consideration on July 16, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has held a public hearing according to Town Law 272-a on August 31, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action has been determined to be a Type I action, pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) 6 NYCRR Part 617.4, and

WHEREAS, the proposed action will not require permits and approvals from any other local, regional and State agencies prior to adoption of the plan; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia County Planning Board is required to review and approve the draft plan pursuant to the applicable standards of New York State General Municipal Law 239-m but this approval is considered an advisory opinion under SEQRA and the agency is not considered to be eligible for lead agency status in this action.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the applicable standards of SEQRA 6 NYCRR part 617, the Town of Ancram Town Board concludes that it is the appropriate agency to serve as, and declares itself lead agency for the environmental review of the proposed Type I action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Ancram Town Board hereby authorizes development and circulation of a copy of the EAF pursuant to the requirements set forth in SEQRA 6 NYCRR Part 617.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to pass resolution #26 of 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #27 OF 2010: State Route 82 and County Route 7 Intersection Grant Support

WHEREAS: The Town Board of the Town of Ancram has received many complaints from its citizenry concerning the unsafe conditions at the intersection of New York State Route 82 and Columbia County Route 7, domiciled in its entirety in the Town of Ancram; *and*

WHEREAS: The New York State Department of Transportation has done a site visit to said intersection, has acknowledged that improvements to sight distance should be made and has recommended corrective action to be taken; *and*

WHEREAS: The Supervisor of the Town of Ancram has received notice of the same from the Columbia County Traffic Safety Board, along with that Board's wishes to pursue all remedial site improvement suggestions by the NYS Department of Transportation, *and*

WHEREAS Using the official recommendations by Laberge Group and Morris Associates Engineering Consultants, it has determined that the most effective way to achieve the necessary sight line is to removed both the building and retaining wall and to regrade the slope between the two roadways on the Northeastern corner of New York State Route 82 and Columbia County Route 7, for an investment of approximately \$250,000;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Supervisor and the Town Board of the Town of Ancram empower the members of the Ancram Community Grants Committee and the Columbia County Safety Committee with all rights and privileges needed to secure funding to cover the expense of these improvements and that the Town Board will reach out to all County, State and Federal Officials in an effort to secure funding to upgrade this intersection for the benefit and safety of all of our residents and visitors.

A motion was made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilwoman Israel of pass resolution #27 of 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #28 OF 2010: GARAGE GRANT SUPPORT

RESOLVED: That the Town Board of the Town of Ancram adopt the resolution presented by the community Grants Committee to support its application for grants to build a new town garage at the current garage location on Town Road in Ancramdale.

Supervisor Bassin asked for comments from the board. Councilman MacArthur asked if this resolution is specific to the Ancramdale location. Mr. Bassin stated that it is. Mr. Bassin explained that the grant will not be sought before the project is passed by a town referendum. It was decided to exclude the final part of the resolution which reads *at the current garage location on Town Road in Ancramdale*. A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Thomas to pass the resolution as revised. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #29 OF 2010

RESOLVED: That the Town Board of the Town of Ancram adopts the same property tax exemption schedule for veterans as used by Columbia County for 2010.

Mr. Bassin stated that he would reclude himself from the vote because he is a veteran and suggested that Councilman MacArthur do the same. Mr. MacArthur stated that he did not feel the need to do this. A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Thomas to pass resolution #29 of 2010. 3 Ayes (Councilman Miller, Councilman Thomas and Councilwoman Israel) Recluse (Supervisor Bassin and Councilman MacArthur) Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #30 OF 2010

RESOLVED: That the Town Board of the Town of Ancram authorizes Warren S. Replansky, PC to be designated as an approved provider of legal service to the Town of Ancram, at an hourly rate of \$175.00.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Thomas to pass Resolution #30 of 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #31 OF 2010

RESOLVED: That the Town Board of the Town of Ancram allows, at Councilman Chris Thomas' request, that his pay be allocated to Youth Programs to support the playground project.

Councilman Thomas stated that he did not want this know, but that all of his income from his tenure in office will be given to the Playground Project.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to pass Resolution #30 of 2010. Councilman Thomas reclused himself. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #31 OF 2010

RESOLVED: That the Town Board of the Town of Ancram authorizes that the Town Hall Building Manager work with the heads of the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer, Assessor and Town Clerk to review the security of all filing cabinets in Town Hall and develop and implement plans to protect all town files under lock and key when not in use by authorized town officials;

FURTHUR RESOLVED: that the Town Hall Building Manager determine the feasibility and cost of housing all town files in fireproof cabinets.

Councilman Chris Thomas and Sue Bassin suggested that the Town investigate electronic scanning and storage. Mr. Citrin suggested fireproofing the Town Clerks office.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Thomas to pass Resolution #31 of 2010 with the addition of *or scanning files electronically* added to the end of the resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #32 OF 2010

RESOLVED: That the Town Board of the Town of Ancram authorizes the spending of up to \$35,000.00, to be drawn from the Capital Building Account, to provide the Town match for the Town Hall solar installation costing approximately \$155,000.00; and that the Town Supervisor be authorized to sign any contracts or other documents needed to secure the funding and implementation of this project.

Mr. Bassin stated that the project will begin as soon as the weather breaks. Mr. Hoyt asked if the town was able to get grant funding for the town match amount. Mr. Bassin stated the town had not.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Thomas to pass resolution #32 of 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #33 FO 2010

RESOLVED: That the Town Board of the Town of Ancram authorizes the Town Supervisor to invest excess town cash in short term bank certificates of deposit with maturities under 1 year up to the FDIC insurance rate of \$250,000.00 per account per bank, to improve the Town's interest earned.

Mrs. Hoyt asked if the State stipulates how much money the town has to have on hand. Mr. Bassin stated they do not.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to pass Resolution #33 of 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #34 OF 2010

RESOLVED: That the Town Board of the Town of Ancram authorizes the supervisor to enter into discussions with Dan Slott to secure an acre of land adjacent to the Town Garage on Town Road, providing that the final terms and conditions of any agreement are subject to the approval of the Town Board.

Motion made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to pass Resolution #34 of 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #35 OF 2010

RESOLVED: That the Town Board of the Town of Ancram authorizes the Town Supervisor to enter into discussions with the owner of the Houghtaling property adjacent to the Town Garage site to determine if it is in the Town's best interest to agree to either a lot line adjustment or purchase of this property, providing that the final terms and conditions of any agreement are subject to the approval of the Town Board.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Miller to pass Resolution #35 of 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #36 OF 2010

RESOLVED: That the Zoning Revisions Committee appointed in December of 2009 be reduced in size from nineteen to the following twelve members:
Hugh Clark, Chair, Terry Boyles, Barry Chase, Barbara Gaba, Bonnie Hunt, Kyle Lougheed, Don MacLean, Bob Mayhew, Jim Miller, Bob Roche, Jane Shannon and Dennis Sigler.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to pass Resolution #36 of 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bassin stated that the notice seeking bids for the lawn maintenance and pool maintenance has been in the paper and that the bids will be opened at the March meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman MacArthur and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to pay the

bills. Motion carried.

Mary Anne Roche addressed the board on behalf of the ATA (Ancram Taxpayers Association). She stated that the ATA has sent out e-mail's in hopes to generate some public interest. She stated that nothing is formalized. Their idea is to try and obtain fair and equable assessments and to educate the public. Everyone will do research as one organization. She stated that there are a lot of people interested in "grieving their taxes". She stated that Mr. Leggett could not answer her questions when she asked him. She stated that the group is not targeting Ken but that she felt he has not been "doing this very long". She felt that the town will be more inclined to be responsive to a group. Clara Van Tassel stated that Mrs. Roche was mistaken, that Mr. Leggett has been doing assessments for over 30 years. Leah Wilcox gave a suggestion stating that Mrs. Roche is confusing using words taxes and assessments . Taxes are based on budgets she stated. Mrs. Wilcox clarified that people grieve their assessments, not their taxes. Mr. Bassin stated that the town and that ATA have to focus on agreement on the facts because facts do not change. Donna Hoyt stated that the ATA is not only looking at the assessment it is also the taxes that they will be looking at.

Libby McKee stated that there has to be some order to the meetings and that people talking for long periods of time and continuously speaking out of turn should not be tolerated. She stated that the board is going to have to enforce Roberts Rules of Order.

A motion was made by Councilman MacArthur and seconded by Supervisor Bassin to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk