

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
January 10, 2008
Regular Meeting**

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

Others: Art Bassin, Mike Citrin, Drienne Citrin, Irene Dietter, Avery Dietter, Jean Brant, Ronald Brant, Rob Bitel, Sylvia Bitel, Jim Murphy, Jim Miller, Perry Miller, Linda Dias, Edella MacArthur, Joan Roberts, Paul McCreary, Carol Bryant, Jim Stickle, Lynn Miller, Casey Miller, Betsy Boyles, Ruth Wittlinger, John Florio, Keith Morey, Anna Morey, Bill Grossi, David Boice, MaryAnn Roche, Robert Roche, Ron VanTassel, Jamie Purintz, Higgins, Bob Murphy, Rob Seymour, Bob Roth, Libby McKee, Reinhold Klugeh, Geraldine Kluge, Richard Simpson, Ken Legget, Gerry Boice, Nancy Bryant, Don McLean, Leroy Mayhew, Bob Mayhew, Glenda Dietter, Madeline Israel, John Florio

The regular meeting was called to order by Supervisor Dias at 8:07pm.

A motion was made by Councilman Bryant and seconded by Councilman Podris to accept the December 20, 2007 minutes as read and place them on record. Motion carried.

Supervisor Dias read the following financial report:

General: Beginning Balance:	\$237,011.96
Deposits:	\$29,811.83
Withdrawals:	\$35,606.61
Ending Balance:	\$206,217.18
Highway: Beginning Balance:	\$14,275.90
Deposits:	\$14,012.00
Withdrawals:	\$25,421.60
Ending Balance:	\$1,916.30
T & A: Beginning Balance:	\$3,657.35
Deposits:	\$10,537.53
Withdrawals:	\$10,594.73
Ending Balance:	\$3,600.15

A motion was made by Councilman Podris and seconded by Councilman Bryant to accept the financial report as read. Motion carried.

Privilege of the Floor

Mr. Don McLean, Planning Board Chair, addressed the board. He stated that 2007 had been a quiet year. There were two new members on the board, Barbara Docktor and Madeline Israel. At this time there is one vacant seat. Applicants for this seat include Jim Stickle, Coleen Lutz and Michael Citrin. Mr. McLean stated that he was resigning as chair but will remain as a member of the board. Jamie Purinton will be the new chair person.

Mrs. Adrien Citrin addressed the board. She questioned the unsightly trailer on Snyder Road and asked if Mr. Florio was “doing his job”. Mr. Florio has spoken to the board about this situation and a complaint is being processed with the town attorney.

Mrs. Libby McKee addressed the board. She questioned the traffic light at the County Route 7 and State Route 82 intersection. She has written to Pitacki in the past and has now made a call to Mr. Salands office. She recommends pursuing the issue. She also questioned the 30% increase in the Highway budget. She asked that there be a schedule for the Highway department. Councilman Roberts stated that in the past there has been a contract between the Highway Superintendent and the Town Board. Mr. Dias stated that a contract will be completed by the next town board meeting. Councilman MacArthur stated that in regards to the intersection that the state feels there are not enough accidents at the sight to constitute a change. He suggested petitioning the state.

Mr. Ryan Cloogla had a concern about the cell phone service. He asked how the town can get a tower. Mrs. VanTassel stated that she had spoken to a cell company and offered the church steeple for a cell tower. They were not interested. Mr. Roth stated that he has called several companies and they will not call back. He spoke to Pine Plains and they built their own tower.

Mr. Bob Mayhew asked about the Highway Garage and if the Town Board has done a walk through. Mr. Dias stated that this will be done within the next month.

Mrs. Carol Bryant stated that she was disappointed with the fact that the land taxes are higher at this time then school taxes.

Mr. Bill Grossi asked about naming the Town Hall building after Mr. Gerald Simons. Councilman Bryant stated that the picture had been given in his memory and that he was not ready at this time to name the building. Councilman Podris suggested having a meeting about this.

Mrs. Nancy Bryant asked about the proposed Leash Law. Councilman Bryant suggested getting a recommendation from the Town Attorney at the February meeting.

Mrs. Jean Brant gave a thank you to Mr. Roberts for filling in as Supervisor for the past year. A round of applause was given.

Correspondence

1. Gillibrands office: Will come to Hall Hill Road to look at the washout.
2. National Flood Control Program
3. Mr. Salands Office: Response to the change in the way in which district eight implements speed limit changes.
4. Columbia County Dept. of Health: Rabies shots will be at the Town Garage on March 1, 2008

Old Business

Councilman Bryant stated that the website will go live in the near future. Laurie from Technology 4-All will meet with Monica.

Councilman Roberts asked about the new Noise Ordinance. Councilman Bryant stated that the original was to be looked at by the Town Attorney and then returned to the board with the revisions. Councilman MacArthur stated that he felt both copies should be reviewed by the board.

Mrs. Lynn Miller asked about the progress of making Roche Lane a Town Highway. Superintendent MacArthur stated that at this time he would recommend the town not taking over the road because it is not up to town specifications. The other land owners have also not said that they would like the road to become public.

New Business

Mr. Dias asked for a resolution appointing Brian P. Fitzgerald, CPA PC, as the Towns bookkeeper. Councilman Roberts stated that he felt the Board should be given some information on this company before appointing them to this important position. He felt the position should be put out for bids and to ask Mrs. Hamm to stay on for another month to pay the January bills. Mr. Dias stated that he has no authority to make a person stay on in a position and that she had suggested this company. Councilman Roberts asked that if the Town Board signs off on this, will the bills be paid for this month. Mr. Dias stated they would. Councilman Podris stated he would feel better if there was a second proposal. Mr. Dias stated that there would be an Emergency Town Board Meeting on Saturday January 12, 2008 at 10:00am. Councilman Roberts stated that Mrs. Hamm had been a terrific bookkeeper.

Councilman Bryant stated that there was money left in the unexpended balance. The board decided to look at this at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Bryant and seconded by Councilman MacArthur to pay the bills. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Bryant and seconded by Councilman MacArthur to adjourn the meeting. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Monica Cleveland
Town Clerk

