

**Town of Ancram  
Town Board  
Emergency Meeting  
January 12, 2008**

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

**Others:** Brian Fitzgerald, Carol Smillie, Perry Miller, Jim Stickle, Rick Dubray,  
Linda Dias, Jen Boice, David Boice, Clara VanTassel, Denise Hamm,  
Ruth Wittlinger, Edella MacArthur, Jean Brant, Ron Brant, Irene Dietter,  
Avery Dietter, Denise Hamm

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Supervisor Dias called the Emergency Meeting of the Ancram Town Board to order at 10:15am with a salute to the flag.

Mr. Dias informed the board that the Town's current bookkeeper Denise Hamm would like to retire after many years of service. He stressed that Mrs. Hamm has done an excellent job through the years. Mr. Dias spoke to other town supervisors on how they handle their accounting. Mrs. Hamm had suggested the town hiring Brian Fitzgerald CPA of East Greenbush.

Mr. Fitzgerald introduced himself. He stated that he has worked with the company since 1993 and has been a CPA since 1999. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he will maintain the books and ledgers. He will take care of the payroll and will help with the annual budget and will file the annual report. He will bill \$10,000.00 a year, \$833.34 a month. For any other services required outside of the what he stated the cost will be \$75.00 an hour. This could include capital projects. He will bill the town for supplies used at the end of the year.

Mr. Dias stated that Mr. Fitzgerald cost is \$10,000.00 per year. He stated that another bid is needed and that there is only one other company in the area who does this type of work for municipalities and they will not go out of the Hudson area.

Councilman Roberts asked where the office is located.

Mr. Fitzgerald replied in East Greenbush and Stuyvesant. A currier service is provided.

Mr. David Boice asked which towns the company services.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that they serve Taconic, Copake, Germantown, Gallatin and Livingston to name a few close towns.

Mr. Boice asked that if there was an audit, would the company be present. Mr. Fitzgerald stated they would be up to a point and then it would be an extra cost.

Mr. Dias stated that a second bid is needed. In the interim period while the town is waiting for the second bid, would Mrs. Hamm be available for an extra month?

Councilman Roberts suggested that if Mrs. Hamm stayed for the transition and pay her for her time. This would make the transition easier.

Mrs. Hamm stated that the transition would not be easier if she stayed or not.

Mr. Dias asked if Mr. Fitzgerald would be willing to work on a monthly basis. Mr. Fitzgerald stated he would.

Councilman Roberts stated that because this is a service to the town, two bids are not needed. He felt though that he would like the chance to see more than one view before the decision is made. He feels that there is sufficient time to make the decision.

Mrs. Ruth Wittlinger asked if the Board would consider a local person for the job? She stated that she did not bring a proposal but that she is interested in the job. She is a PDA Public Accountant and works as the town's Court Clerk. Mr. Dias asked that she present a proposal. He will speak to the Town Attorney to make sure there is not a conflict of interest in the two positions.

Councilman Podris made a motion seconded by Councilman Bryant to hire Mr. Brian Fitzgerald for the interim period of three months to work as the Town of Ancram's accountant. Proposals for the position will be accepted and reviewed during this time period. Motion carried.

Councilman Podris will remain as the Board's contact person for the Health Insurance.

Mr. Dias called an Emergency Meeting of the Ancram Town Board on January 19, 2008, 10am at the Ancram Town Highway Garage.

A motion was made by Councilman Bryant and seconded by Councilman Roberts to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.