

**Town of Ancram  
Town Board  
Regular Meeting  
June 16, 2016**

**Present:** Supervisor Arthur Bassin                      Councilman Hugh Clark  
                 Councilman Chris Thomas                      Councilman David Boice  
                 Town Clerk Monica Cleveland  
                 Highway Superintendent Jim Miller   Absent: Councilwoman Madeleine Israel

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The regular meeting of the Ancram Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Bassin at 7:00 pm with a salute to the flag.

Town Assessor Ken Leggett gave a report on Grievence Day. He said that there were six walk in applicants, two who had applied through the mail, and eleven stipulations. Of the grievances, the board made changes to three. Mr. Leggett stated that he had received varification that Ancram is now at a 100% equilization rate. He was pleased with the results from the in house revaluation. He suggested that the town repeat the procedure in three years, and hew would continue to make annual adjustments if necessary.

Mr. Bassin announced that Mr. Jack Seiber had tendered his resignation from the FAC and the BAR effective the end of June. Mr. Seiber has sold his house and is moving to Florida. Mr. Sieber had suggested Mr. Bob Podris as his replacement on the BAR.

A motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Boice to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and have them placed on the record. Motion carried.

**Fire Chief**

Mr. Boice reported that there had been nine calls in the last month, one of which was a structure fire. The department will be attending training. On June 21<sup>st</sup> there will be a special meeting of the Commissioners to approve the specs for the proposed new fire truck. This will be followed in July by a Public Hearing for the Bond Resolution on the proposed new fire truck and the referendum vote to approve the bond for the new truck. Mr. Boice stated that the money for the bond payment has already been budgeted in the current budget. Mr. Clark asked what happens if the referendum does not pass. Mr. Boice said that the commissioners would have to begin the process again. Mr. Thomas asked if there would be an increase in taxes because of the new fire truck bond, and Chief Boice said no.

## Supervisors Report

### Town Issues

**1. Financial Report** – May was another “normal” financial month. For the five months ending May 2016, we have spent about \$100,000 less than through May of 2015. The Highway Department accounted for the entire \$100,000 “savings”, caused by underruns in fuel, snow removal, machinery repairs and overtime.

**2. Full Year Cash Projection** - I have updated the attached 2016 Cash Projection chart. All incremental spending has been previously approved by the TB. We have \$435,000 of revenue risks and unbudgeted projects, including the \$275,000 culvert project, offset by \$384,000 of unbudgeted savings and revenues. Net, net, our cash at year end 2016 is projected to come in at \$760,000, \$51,000 under the \$811,000 originally budgeted amount. As a point of reference, the TB has established a policy that requires the Town to maintain about \$800,000 of cash reserves at year end, so we are “in the ballpark”.

**3. Culvert Project** – We are waiting for delivery of the culverts. We expect them to be ready by the end of July.

**4. Right to Farm law SEQRA** – We will review the SEQRA analysis related to the RTF law at our TB meeting next week. Adoption of the RTF law will be done after the County Planning Board reviews and approves it, which will probably be after our 6/16 meeting, so we will consider the RTF law for adoption at the July TB meeting.

**6. Highway Garage Drain & Oil/Water Separator** – Still waiting for DEC approval.

**7. Parcel adjacent to Town Garage** – This .6 acre parcel has been taken over by the County in a tax foreclosure. We have offered \$1000 for the parcel. Will update you on the status at the TB meeting.

**8. TH Wireless Smoke, Gas, Carbon Monoxide Detectors** – We have a proposal to install wireless smoke, gas and carbon monoxide detectors in Town Hall for \$1000. I will be recommending we accept this proposal.

### County Issues

**1. Pine Haven** - Sale should be completed by the end of June. County expects to net about \$6 million from the sale, and avoid annual losses of between \$3 million and \$4 million.

**2. Broadband** - County has appointed a broadband committee to work on improving broadband around the County.

Mr. Bassin spoke about the town hall security system in regards to the fire alarms and the proposal that the town install wireless smoke, gas and carbon monoxide alarms. Mr. Boice, who is the fire chief and tried calling the current company during the last incident with the alarms, said that he was not impressed with the company. He said that he had a hard time getting through to them. He suggested that the town investigate the company called Vector. Mr. Bassin will look into this. Mr. Miller said that he was having wireless smoke alarms installed in the Town Garage as well. He is having an estimate done in the coming week.

At this point in the meeting, the Town Board went through the SEQRA review for the proposed Right to Farm Law. Supervisor Bassin walked the Board through each of the page of the three part SEQRA form, noting that there were no negative environmental impacts identified in any of the 18 areas listed as areas of concern in Part 2 of the SEQRA. Mr. Bassin also commented that section F of Part 1 of the SEQRA form was a written narrative of the proposed action and summarized why each of the 18 areas of concern in part 2 had no negative environmental impacts.

Following an opportunity for the Town Board members to comment on the SEQRA, the following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Thomas and moved for adoption. Resolution carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

**Resoliton #32 of the Town of Ancram: RTF Law SEQRA Negative Declaration – Type I Action**

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Ancram desires to further implement its Comprehensive Plan and Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town has committed to promote agriculture as a vital land use in the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town has drafted a Right to Farm Law consistent with the Town plans and the New York State model Right to Farm provisions; and

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

WHEREAS, the Town Board will submit the Draft Right to Farm Law to the Columbia County Planning Board as required by NYS General Municipal Law 239-m and the proposed action does not require any other permits or approvals from other State and Federal agencies prior to adoption; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board declared itself Lead Agency and conducted an environmental assessment according to SEQRA, 6 NYCRR Part 617; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board, after consideration of the Full Environmental Assessment Form Part I and Part II finds that the adoption of the Town of Ancram Right to Farm Law, as described in the Negative Declaration (Part III of the Full Environmental Assessment Form and the narrative provided for Section F of the Full Environmental Assessment Form Part I) will have no adverse environmental impacts as per 617.7 of 6 NYCRR Part 617 (SEQRA).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Ancram Town Board hereby declares that adoption of the Town of Ancram Right to Farm Law described herein, will not have any significant negative environmental impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes filing of the negative declaration, according to SEQRA, 6 NYCRR Part 617; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to sign the Full Environmental Assessment Form.

WHEREUPON, this Resolution was declared adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Ancram

## **Highway**

Mr. Miller reported that the department had completed sealing five miles of road this week. Mr. Miller had attended Highway School the previous week as well as the entire crew attending safety training day in Chatham. Truck three has had a new transmission installed and the grader is currently having motor work done to it. This coming Tuesday, the department will be giving aid to the Town of Copake in their paving project. Mr. Miller said that the new culverts for the culvert project have not been delivered yet and that he is growing concerned that the project may have to be postponed to next year as they are not allowed to work in the streams past September.

## **Climate Smart Community**

The committee is looking for a new chair and some new members. Going forward, they wish to have the Highway and Fire departments involved in their decision making.

## **FAC**

Mr. Bassin announced that the committee has a new member, Peter Scollar.

## **Ethics Board**

Mr. Bassin stated that he had posed a question to the board and is waiting for an answer, regarding town vendors donating to the town camp and pool program.

## **Camp/Youth Commission**

Mr. Bassin announced that the camp has received \$18,000 in donations thus far, ahead of last year and the budgeted amount. He is hopeful the town will receive more in the coming weeks. The camp board will be meeting in the next week to discuss enrollment and other items. Ginoccio Electric has run electricity to the shed so the camp can have a small refrigerator to keep water cold for the children on hot days.

## **Communications**

The committee will have more information on the "Welcome to Ancram" signs next month.

## **CAC**

Mr. Dembo announced that Jamie Purinton is the recipient of the 2016 Columbia County Environmental Management Council's "Good Earthkeeping Award". He also announced that the Camp Pontiac application to the DEC to use herbicides in the lake had been returned by DEC for additional information.

## **Heritage**

Mr. Bassin reported that the fence around the old cemetery will likely be installed sometime at the end of June.

**Culvert Project**

Mrs. Lutz reported that the first payment request has been submitted and the town will be receiving \$16,000 back.

**Habitat**

The committee will be meeting at the end of June to discuss options.

**Audit**

Mr. Bassin announced that he has received letters from the FAC on the completion of the 2016 audits of the Town and the Town Court. A copy of the Audit letters are on file with the Town Clerk.

A motion was made by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilman Thomas to approve the June 2016 warrants. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman Boice to pay the June 2016 bills. Motion carried.

Mr. Clark stated that he will be attending the solar training on June 22. Mr. Boice showed interest in going as well.

Mr. Bassin stated that he had received a request from Cablevision regarding a property in Northeast who needs to have wires run through the Town of Ancram. A motion was made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman Boice to allow Mr. Bassin to approve the proposed corridor agreement with Cablevision subject to a legal review. Mr. Bassin will secure from Cablevision or the Cablevision client a \$1000 escrow account for the project prior to initiating the legal review. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Thomas to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland  
Ancram Town Clerk