

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
November 19, 2015**

Present: Supervisor Arthur Bassin Councilman James Miller
 Councilman Chris Thomas Councilman Hugh Clark
 Councilwoman Madeline Israel Town Clerk Monica Cleveland
 Highway Superintendent James MacArthur

Mr. Bassin called the regular meeting of the Ancram Town board to order at 7:00pm with a salute to the flag.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Thomas to accept the minutes of the October 15, 2015 Preliminary Budget Public Hearing Meeting and Town Board Regular Meeting as read and placed on the record. Motion carried.

Fire Chief

Mr. Boice reported that there were 9 calls in the last month. He reminded those gathered that there will be a Fire District election on December 8, 2015 from 6-9pm. Mr. Tom Miller is up for re-election as a commissioner. There will also be two resolutions on the ballot that pertain to service awards.

Supervisors Report

Town Issues

- 1. Financial Report** – We ended October with \$950,000 in the bank. Revenues and spending through the end of October were as expected, with operating spending down about \$50,000 this year to date compared to the same period in 2014. This excludes “financial transactions” like the \$240,000 loan prepayment made in August 2014 and the \$396,000 truck loan taken out in September, 2015. Assuming no extraordinary financial events for the rest of the year, we are on track to come in pretty much on budget for 2015, with an expected year-end 2015 cash balance of between \$750,000 and \$775,000.
- 2. 2016 Budget** – We will finalize and adopt our 2016 Budget at the 11/19 TB meeting, after a public hearing prior to the 11/19 Town Board meeting. It still appears we will be able to reduce town taxes by about 1% (\$8,000) in 2016 while budgeting a “contingent account” of about \$33,000. A summary of the key assumptions in the 2016 budget is attached.
- 3. Culvert grant** - Colleen Lutz has issued a RFP for engineering services to support the culvert grant process. The Culvert Committee anticipates recommending to the TB an engineering firm to assist in the culvert project for approval at the December TB meeting.
- 4. Health Insurance** – The major change in health insurance program design for both employees and retirees this year is a significant increase in the out of pocket maximum’s with a slight drop in premiums. If we continue to offer programs which cap the out of pocket costs at the 2015 levels of \$1500 for employees and \$2550 for retirees, our premium costs plus health savings account contributions in 2016 will be about flat to 2015 at \$53,000, but our total self-insurance risk, if all employees and all retirees were to need reimbursement up to their out of pocket maximums, would increase from \$4500 in 2015 to \$22,000 in 2016. While this is a low probability risk, we need to be aware of it. Our 2016 budget is set at

\$65,000, same as 2015, to give us a “self-insurance” cushion of about \$12,000, which will cover just over 50% of our \$22,000 self- insurance risk. Interestingly, regardless of the health insurance “tier” level (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze), we can pay more premium to CDPHP in exchange for lower out of pocket maximums...the exchange rate seems to be about 70%, which means if we want to lower of out of pocket maximums by about \$2800 per employee by going from Bronze to Gold, we have to pay an additional \$2000 in premium per employee. Our employee experience suggests we will do better by accepting the higher self-insurance risk, and paying lower premiums, which I am recommending. As we did last year, we will be offering family coverage with the Town paying 50% of the premium.

County Issues – Nothing new to report...

The Board began discussing the Health Insurance police. Mr. Bassin suggested continuing at the 2015 level of employee contribution and have the town assume the higher out of pocket risk that is built into all the available policies. There is the possible risk of about \$45,000 if all 7 people covered by the town’s policy were to have serious medical issues and exceed the \$6850 per person out of pocket maximum. The Town’s experience over the past few years has been no major medical issues. Mr. Miller stated that he would recuse himself from the discussion as he will be entering the program in January. Mr. Thomas felt that at some point the insurance is going to become too expensive to maintain. Mr. Bassin suggested that the town explore other cost sharing options in 2016 for 2017. He suggested the possibility of having the employee pay 10-15% of the premium. Mrs. Israel asked if it was possible to find out known events from the employees. Mr. Bassin said that they are not obligated by law to let the town know of “known events”, like plans to replace a hip or have a baby. But, if the town was to know, they could go to the insurance carrier and craft special a program. Mr. Clark stated that he was at the FAC meeting and that the insurance is a very complex issue. He stated that the committee felt the town should honor the agreements with the employees.

Highway

Mr. Bassin asked about the 284 agreement. Mr. MacArthur said he had already turned that in.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved for adoption. Resolution carried.

Resolution # 38 of 2015

Local Transportation Funding:

Whereas, a reliable transportation infrastructure is vital for the safety of New York’s travelling public and its economy; and

Whereas, 85 percent of New York’s roads and bridges are maintained by local governments; and

Whereas, despite well-timed and targeted preventative maintenance treatments, the age and condition of many of our locally-owned transportation assets means that they are beyond preservation and in need of much more costly rehabilitation and reconstruction; and

Whereas, estimates by the State Comptroller, DOT and independent studies show a large portion of road mileage is deteriorating and many bridges in the state are rated structurally deficient and functionally obsolete; and

Whereas, the State Comptroller estimates that there will be \$89 billion in unmet local infrastructure needs over the next 20 years; and

Whereas, the New York State Association of Town Superintendents of Highways commissioned its own fifteen year analysis that indicates an annual funding gap of \$1.3 billion for the local system (excluding NYC) alone; and

Whereas, funding for our local system has been far short of what is needed and we've fallen further and further behind in maintaining the vast and aging transportation infrastructure over this long period with severe consequences for conditions ratings; and

Whereas, the New York State Consolidated Local Street and Highway Program (CHIPS) provides essential funding for every municipality in the state and is part of the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) capital program; and

Whereas, in the early 1990's the Governor and Legislature created the Dedicated Highway and Bridge Trust Fund (DHBTF) to pay for the NYSDOT capital program and the Dedicated Mass Transit Trust Fund (DMTTF) to assist with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and other transit systems' capital programs; and Whereas, when the DHBTF was created, it was agreed that the NYSDOT and MTA five-year capital programs would be similar in size and would be negotiated concurrently; and

Whereas, through 2005-09, both five-year capital programs were similar in size and adopted within months of each other; and

Whereas, in 2010 the Executive and Legislature broke traditional parity and enacted a five-year capital program for the MTA but not the DOT; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Ancram calls upon the Governor and the state Legislature to make additional state funding and resources available at levels that accurately reflect the critical needs of local roads and bridges; and increase CHIPS funding in the 2016-17 state budget; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Ancram calls upon the Governor, and members of the state Legislature to fully fund and submit a new NYSDOT five-year transportation capital plan; and BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, that the Town of Ancram calls upon the Governor and members of the state Legislature to recognize the equality of roads, bridges and transit by restoring funding equality between the MTA and NYSDOT five-year programs and by voting on the plans simultaneously.

Town Clerk

Upon inspection of the internet system at the Town Hall by Fairpoint, it was discovered that the town hall is running on the slowest internet connection available from Fairpoint. To upgrade to the highest internet speed will cost the town approximately \$30 more a month.

A motion was made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman Miller to allow the internet to be upgraded at the town hall. Motion carried.

Assessor

It was reported that the computer in the assessor's office needs to be replaced due to issues that involve shutting itself off. This cannot be fixed and a new computer was suggested.

A motion was made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman Miller to allow a new computer to be purchased for the Assessors office. Motion carried.

FAC

Mr. Seiber reported that the committee had met with Kirk Kneller of the insurance company to go over the health insurance information. They also inspected the proposed budget and the financials.

Planning Board

The planning board reported that Jamie Purinton will be stepping down from the board as of 2016.

Heritage Committee

Mr. Bassin reported that the Bill Krattinger of the State Historical Preservation Office is close to completing the paperwork for the designation of a portion of Ancram as a historic district..

Dog Census

Mr. Bassin stated that Mr. Powell had been in to see him. It was agreed that the money paid to him for the incompleting dog census will be returned to the town through a payroll deduction and that once Mr. Powell has completed the census, he will then be paid the total.

Teathering and Puppy Mills

Mrs. Rader reported on this matter and has asked the town board for an additional six months to bring her research together. She stated that the Town of Washington, population 5000, is considering a teathering law. The County of Dutchess is doing the same. She stated that commercial kenneling is included in the new zoning law and that it is enforced by the zoning and planning boards.

At this time the following resolutions were addressed by the town board.

The following resolution was offered by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Clark and moved for adoption through a roll call vote. Carried unanimously.

Resolution #39 of 2015

Approval of 2016 Budget – Resolved, that the 2016 Budget presented and reviewed by the Ancram Town Board at the 11/19/15 Town Board meeting following a public hearing is approved and adopted.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved for adoption. Carried unanimously.

Resolution #40 of 2015

New Officials training – Resolved, that Town Board members and the Highway Superintendent are authorized to attend the new officials training program conducted by the Association of Town in Albany, NY January 13 -15, 2016.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Thomas and moved for adoption. Carried unanimously

Resolution #41 of 2015

Highway mowing equipment – Resolved, that the Town Supervisor, in conjunction with the Highway Superintendent and the Deputy Town Supervisor is authorized to purchase a commercial grade lawn mower adequate for the mowing of the lawn at the Town Hall and Blass Field for a cost not to exceed \$10,000.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Israel and seconded by Councilman Clark and moved for adoption by a roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously with one recusal by Councilman Miller.

Resolution #42 of 2015

Employee Health Insurance – Resolved, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to enter into an agreement with CDPHP to provide health insurance to Ancram employees eligible for Town health insurance, and be it further resolved that the Town of Ancram will contribute \$750 to an employee Health Saving Account for eligible employees, that the Town of Ancram will establish a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) through which the Town will reimburse any employee out of pocket expense not covered by the health insurance policy over \$1500 until the policy deductible of \$3500 is reached and the insurance reimburses 50% of costs, and that the Town will reimburse through the HRA any of the out of pocket costs incurred after the deductible is reached up to an out of pocket of pocket maximum of \$6850 per employee and covered family member, at which point the health insurance policy will cover 100% of eligible costs.

The following resolution was offered by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Clark and moved for adoption. Motion carried unanimously with one recusal by Councilman Miller.

Resolution #43 of 2015

Family Health Insurance – Resolved, that the Town of Ancram will pay up to 50% of the employee health insurance premium cost for family members of eligible employees.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved for adoption. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #44 of 2015

Retiree Health Insurance – Resolved, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to enter into an agreement with Blue Shield to provide a Medicare Advantage Program for eligible retirees, and be it further resolved that the Town of Ancram will either contribute \$850 to each eligible retiree via a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA), Health Saving Account (HAS), flexible spending account or any other such program as permitted by law, or that the Town of Ancram will use an HRA to reimburse each eligible retiree for any out of pocket health care expenses incurred over \$2550 up to the policy out of pocket maximum of \$5000.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved for adoption. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #45 of 2015

Columbia-Greene Humane Society Contract: Resolved, that the Ancram Town Supervisor is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Columbia-Greene Humane Society to house dogs from the Town who are taken to the Columbia Greene Humane Society by the Town Animal Control Officer.

An additional proposed resolution for an upgrade to new LED lights in the 31 street lights in Ancram was postponed. Mr. Bassin will do some more research into this issue.

The following budget adjustments were offered by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Thomas. Motion carried unanimously.

To Repairs 5110.4 from Brush and Weeds 5140.4 \$6963.00
To State Retirement 9010.8 from Contingent 1990.4 \$6000.00
To Machinery 5130.4 from Brush and Weeds 5140.4 \$4431.00
To Buildings 1620.4 from Buildings 1620.1 \$1500.00
To Celebrations 7550.4 from Fund Balance \$500.00
To Pool 7310.4 from Fund Balance \$3000.00
To Camp 7310.4 from Camp 7310.1 \$600.00
To State retirement 9010.8 from Contingent 1990.4 \$9000.00
To Town Clerk 1410.4 from Assessors Clerk 1355.12 \$1000.00
To Zoning Secretary 8010.13 & Planning/Zoning Secretary 8010.14 from Zoning Deputy 8010.12 \$1500.00

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to approve the warrant and pay the bills. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk