

**Town of Ancram  
Town Board  
Regular Meeting  
October 15, 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

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Supervisor Bassin called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm with a salute to the flag.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to approve the minutes of the September 17<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting and the September 17<sup>th</sup> tentative budget public hearing. Motion carried.

**Fire Chief**

Mr. Boice reported that there were three fire calls in the last month, one of them being a bad car fire on Route 22. The Fire District will have a district election on December 8<sup>th</sup>. There are two resolutions to go before the board. Next Tuesday the district will hold a budget hearing.

Councilman Thomas asked what the increase in the budget was for. He noted that the budget has gone up 65% since 2011. Mr. Boice stated that the increase is for money towards the new building, new truck and to cover state mandates. Mr. Thomas asked about the department's capital plan. Mr. Boice stated that the capital plan is to purchase a new truck every five years, keeping a truck for 25. Mr. Thomas asked if the department is saving money now for the proposed new truck. Mr. Boice stated that they are in that process.

**Supervisors Report**

**1. Financial Report** – We ended September with \$957,000 in the bank. Revenues and spending through the end of August 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 \$280,000 loan repayment made in August 2014 and the \$396,000 truck loan taken out last month. Assuming no extraordinary financial events, we are on track to come in pretty much on budget for 2015, with a year-end cash balance of about \$750,000.

**2. 2016 Budget** – We will finalize our 2016 Budget after public hearings at the 10/15 and 11/19 Town Board meetings. It still appears we will be able to reduce town taxes by about 1% (\$8,000) in 2016 while maintaining a “contingent account reserve” of about \$30,000. The annual truck loan payment of \$76,000 a year is being funded by a reduction of the contingent account of about \$50,000 and decreases in the maintenance and fuel accounts in the highway budget. We do not yet have final numbers on property, liability or health insurance.

**3. Culvert grant** - Colleen Lutz has established a culvert committee, and we are in the process of interviewing engineers in anticipation of developing and issuing a RFP for an engineer to assist with this project.

**4. Election 2015** – Meet the candidates events are set for Sunday 10/25 and Sunday 11/1 at 1 pm at Town Hall.

## **County Issues**

- 1. Pine Haven** – Still waiting for NYS Health Department approval. Could take 6-12 months.
- 2. CEDC** – We are close to approving a new contract with CEDC. The new CEDC leadership is making good progress and agrees that developing a joint economic development plan with the County is priority #1.
- 3. County Management** – The idea that the County is too complex to be managed well by 23 part time supervisors and a part time chairman without a full time elected Executive or appointed manager continues to be a topic of discussion among supervisors. If County leadership does not embrace this idea it may become an issue in the election to determine the next BOS chair, which happens in January. Stimulating this dialogue is a survey recently sent to all supervisors asking for opinions and comments on how well the County is managed. Results will probably be published before the November elections.

Mr. Bassin asked if there were any budget suggestions from the board. Councilwoman Israel asked if it was possible to raise the donation to the library from \$5000 to \$7500. Mr. Bassin asked for comments from the board members. Mr. Thomas stated that he is not opposed to the suggestion but reminded the board that the 414 was voted down twice. Mr. Miller stated that he would like to stay away from a 414. Mr. Clark said that while he has no objections, he would be reluctant to raise the amount.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Supervisor Bassin to increase the budget line for the library to \$7500 for the year 2015. Roll call vote as follows: Councilman Thomas, Yea; Councilman Miller, No; Supervisor Bassin, Yea; Councilwoman Israel, Yea; Councilman Clark, No. Motion carried.

Mr. Thomas proposed that the donation amount sets back to \$5000 next year and that it be voted on again. The board agreed.

Mr. Bassin spoke about the rescue squad budget. He stated that the budget has a small increase. The operational funds are staying flat and that the increase is due to \$19,000 more allocated to workers comp. The rescue squad also has to pay a chargeback to the county, which has been over looked for some years, in the amount of \$55,000.

## **Town Board**

Councilwoman Israel read a letter from the library about the summer reading program. The children in the Ancram Kids Camp read a total of 213 hours. Of the four "most active reader" raffle winners for the summer, three of them were from Ancram.

## **Dog Census**

Mr. Bassin has spoken to Mr. Powell and together with his wife, he promises that the census will be completed this year.

## **Volunteer Committee**

The committee shared with the board the language of the proposed invitation. The committee proposes purchasing 100 "Ancram Volunteer" insulated mugs which can be used at various volunteer events. The Pond Restaurant has been reserved for the 15<sup>th</sup> of November, 5-7 pm. A personalized resolution will be given to each honoree.

The following resolution was offered by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Thomas and moved to a roll call vote. Yes- M. Israel, A. Bassin, C. Thomas. Recused- J. Miller, H. Clark

#### **Resolution #34 of 2015**

**Resolved:** that the Ancram Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor and the Volunteer Celebration Committee to organize a Volunteer Celebration event at the Pond Restaurant on November 15, 2015 at a cost of approximately \$2500.

Mr. Bassin asked that each member take a look at the town policies manuals and the fee schedule for discussion at the next TB meeting.

Mr. Bassin stated that Mr. Ferratto asked that a logging permit fee be added to the Building Department fees. He suggested a fee of \$100. This is due to logging that is happening on Westfall Road. The company will be applying for a permit. Mr. Bassin said that the company had spoken to Ed, but the scope of the work did not look to need a permit as per the new zoning law. Jim MacArthur stated that the town of Gallatin has a policy where the property owner has to put \$5000 into an escrow account that can then be used for road damage if there happens to be any. Councilman Thomas stated that there were trucks running through at 8:30 at night and that this is clearly someone making money. He stated that in the least, Mr. Ferratto should be looking at the property and that he believes that this property owner and company should have to begin at the beginning of the process, including coming before the planning board. Mr Clark pointed out that there already was a \$250 fee in the town fee schedule for a special use permit related to commercial logging, which the ZEO could issue without Planning Board review or approval. Mr. Clark also indicated that the ZRC would review the language of the logging permit section of the new zoning law to clarify when a permit is necessary, and to establish provisions for an escrow account.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Thomas and moved for a vote. Resolution carried unanimously.

#### **Resolution #35 of 2015**

##### **Approval of 2016 Tentative and Preliminary Budgets:**

**Resolved:** that the Tentative 2016 Budget presented and reviewed by the Ancram Town Board at the 9/17/2015 Town Board meeting following a public hearing and the Preliminary 2016 Preliminary Budget, presented and reviewed by the Ancram Town Board at the 10/15/2015 Town Board meeting following a public hearing, are approved.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Miller and moved for a vote. Resolution carried unanimously.

#### **Resolution #36 of 2015**

##### **2016 Final Budget Public Hearing**

**Resolved:** That the Ancram Town Board will hold a public hearing to solicit public comments on the proposed 2016 Final Budget at 6:45 pm on November 19, 2015 at the Ancram Town Hall, and that the Ancram Town Clerk is directed to publish a public notice in the Town's official newspapers announcing this public hearing.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved to a vote. Resolution carried unanimously.

**Resolution #37 of 2015**

**County Rescue Squad Chargeback Agreement**

**Resolved:** The the Ancram Town Supervisor is authorized to enter into a chargeback agreement with the County of Columbia to pay \$99,500 for the rescue squad service in 2016 provided to the Town of Ancram by the Community Rescue Squad.

Mr. Thomas questioned whether the number would return to it's regular amount in 2017. Mr. Bassin said that although he does not know at this time, it will have to go for a vote again next year.

The following General Budget adjustments were offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Miller and carried unanimously.

To: Youth Programs 7310.1 From Youth Programs 7310.4 \$1500.00  
To Town Clerk 1420.4 From Central Data 1680.4 \$500.00  
To Insurance 1910.4 From Dues 1920.4 \$100.00  
To Control of Animals 3520.1 From Control of Animals 3520.4 \$1850.00  
To Unemployment 9050.8 From 1920.4 \$50.00

The following Highway Budget adjustments were offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and carried unanimously.

To Chips 5112.4 From State Aid Chips Revenue \$20,653.00  
To State Aid Chips Revenue From State Aid Chips Receivable \$20,653.00  
To Machinery 5130.4 From Repairs 5110.4 \$3000.00  
To Snow Removal 5142.4 From Repairs 5110.4 \$14,741.81

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

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

Respectfully Submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland  
Ancram Town Clerk