

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Preliminary 2017 Budget Public Hearing
October 20, 2016**

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

Supervisor Arthur Bassin called the public hearing to order at 6:45 pm. He opened the meeting to comments from the floor.

There being no questions, Mr. Bassin asked the board members if there are any comments they wished to make.

Councilman Thomas question outside services such as the lawyers and planners and if they were outside bids. Mr. Bassin stated that the town uses several different lawyers who specialize in different areas. Mr. Bassin stated that with some specified services, the town needs to know what they are getting and that we are comfortable with those services.

Councilman Boice shared that he felt that there needed to be more interaction within the board members. He also expressed the following. In regards to the library, he felt that although he had voted for the district referendum, the town as a whole did not. He as a representative of the town felt that he needed to vote on the budget the way the town voted. In regards to the culvert, Mr. Boice felt the town has to have run over budget at this point. He felt that the project went over specifications financially and that the project over ran its allotted time, time the highway crew could have been some place else. Mr. Bassin stated that he would put the numbers together from the project and share them. Both Mr. Boice and Mr. Thomas felt that the company installing the culvert should have had more oversight. Mr. Thomas stated that he felt the Hall Hill project should not go forward in the same way.

Councilwoman Israel spoke in regards to the library. She said that she understood the town voted against the district but she stated, the town did not have a vote for the free camp or the free pool. The library, she pointed out, is open to everyone and is important as the schools. Mr. Thomas said that he has had several comments about the increase last year. He stated that he disagreed with the fact that the library committee planned and built the building without the community voting on it. Mr. Bassin said that he had a call from a resident very strongly against the increase this year for the library. Mr. Boice stated once again that although he had personally voted for the referendum, as a representative on the Town Board he felt it was his duty to vote as the people voted. Mr. Bassin noted that about 2/3 (actually was about 55%) voted no and 1/3 (actually about 45%) for the referendum supporting the \$30,000 library tax, he felt that the \$7500 amount was correct. He felt that this should be voted on as a separate

line item in the budget. Mr. Clark felt that he was voted to represent all citizens of Ancram, and will vote in that respect.

Ms. Diane Valden asked about the Rescue Squad budget. Mr. Bassi stated that it is equal to last year at \$99,000.

Councilman Thomas inquired as to whether the Highway department would be having performance evaluations this year. Mr. Miller said that they would be.

There being no more comments, Councilman Thomas made a motion seconded by Councilman Boice to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk