

# Draft Minutes

**Town of Ancram  
Town Board  
Special Meeting  
February 10, 2009**

**Present:** Town Supervisor Thomas Dias  
Councilman Robert Mayhew  
Councilman John MacArthur  
Councilman James Miller  
Councilwoman Donna Hoyt  
Town Clerk Monica Cleveland

**Others:** Highway Superintendent James MacArthur, Gary Dietch, Jean Brant,  
Ronald Brant

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The special meeting of the Ancram Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Dias with a salute to the flag.

The following publication was read by Town Clerk Monica Cleveland: *The Town Board of the Town of Ancram does hereby announce that a special Town Board meeting will take place on Tuesday February 10, 2009 at 6:00PM. The meeting will be held to discuss the purchase of a 1978 OshKosh truck with a plow and plow wing from the Town of Pleasant Valley. Ancram Town Hall, 1416 County Route 7 Ancram NY 12502.*

Mr. Dias stated that the bid of \$14,000.00 was accepted by the town of Pleasant Valley.

Mr. Dias offered the following Resolution for adoption, seconded by Councilman Miller;

**Resolution #7 of the Year 2009: Board Resolution of the Town of Ancram to Purchase Equipment:**

WHEREAS, it is necessary to purchase equipment for the efficient operation of the Town of Ancram,

RESOLVED, The Town of Ancram to purchase a 1978 OshKosh from the Town of Pleasant Valley for the purchase price of \$14,000.00.

Mr. Dias asked for discussion from the board.

Councilman MacArthur stated that he doesn't believe that the town should buy a 30 year old piece of equipment. He stated that there are vehicles around that are much better and that he believes that this one "is not the one".

Councilman Mayhew stated that he looked at the truck and that he thought that for its age it is in great shape. He stated that it is all wheel drive, something that the Town could use on the Mountain. He stated that the bed and sander is stainless steel and that it is worth half of what the town is paying for the truck. He questioned the board what they would do if another truck was to break down.

Mr. Dias asked Highway Superintendent MacArthur that if the resolution passes, when could he put it into action. Mr. MacArthur stated that he could have it on the road tomorrow, if he could get the check from Brian.

Councilman Miller stated that he also looked at the truck and that he feels it is in good condition. He stated that it runs good, is clean with no rust and no oil leaks.

Councilwoman Hoyt asked if there was anything mechanical that needed to be done with it. Mr. MacArthur stated no, there was not. Mrs. Hoyt stated that she feels that the board has to pick and choose their battles. She stated that the board is looking at a new Highway Garage and that this will cost a lot of money. She stated that the board should not jeopardize this and maybe look into a two or three year old truck.

H.S. MacArthur stated that he originally had five trucks and now he is down to four. At this time he has two trucks down. He stated that he has a need for a backup truck, which this Oshkosh would be. He stated that since the last board meeting, he has had a motor go in a truck. He stated that he has looked into other trucks and that he found 3 2006 trucks in Florida that are tandem axle. At Ben Funk, Mr. MacArthur was told that a single axle truck alone is \$80,000.00 and a ten wheel is \$140,000.00 His trucks at this time are a 2005, a 2000, a 1994, and a 1993.

Councilman MacArthur asked what the town is in need of, if it is a tandem to haul and where the town is hauling from. H.S. MacArthur stated that he is hauling everything from Hudson. Councilman MacArthur asked why the town is not using Bryant Mines. H. S. MacArthur stated that it is more expensive and not as good a quality. Councilman MacArthur asked if it would be better and save money to buy a tandem and dedicate it to hauling and not have a snowplow put on it. He stated that he believes other towns have a tandem for this purpose. Councilman Miller stated that the towns of Copake, and Gallatin do and that Pine Plains has their loads brought in. Mr. Miller asked if it would be cheaper for the town to have materials hauled in. H.S. MacArthur stated it would not be.

Highway Superintendent MacArthur stated that the 2005 truck has 70,000 miles and the 1993 has 73,000 miles. He stated that to fix the 1994 it would cost \$10,000.00 for the motor plus labor, around \$15,000.00. The truck has 174,000 miles on it but the condition of the truck is very good.

Councilman Miller stated that the truck in need of repair is not the oldest in the fleet. The 1993 has 60,000 miles on it and is a light truck. H.S. MacArthur stated that the Town hardly uses the truck in the summer for that reason.

Mr. Dias asked if the engine from the 1993 could be put into the 1994. It is in essence the same truck. Councilwoman Hoyt stated that the 1994 truck is heavier and would add more stress to the older engine.

Councilman MacArthur stated that there is no guarantee on the engines. The engine could be a new engine and could die within weeks. He asked if the Town Highway trucks would have to conform to the new state standards for emissions and would the trucks have to be converted to tier 3 or 4. H.S. MacArthur stated he did not know. Councilman Miller stated that they may need a new piece put on them and have to use a new kind of fuel.

Highway Superintendent MacArthur stated that the 2006's in Florida are for sale for \$89,000.00. They have a dump body but no plows. To have them fitted with plows would cost but he did not have a price. A new truck off the showroom floor would come in at around \$200,000.00. He recommended that the town buy the OshKosh and then look for a different truck in the summer. Councilwoman Hoyt suggested buying the OshKosh and putting the engine in the 1994.

Councilman MacArthur asked how and why the engine went in the 1994 and if it was operator issues. Highway Superintendent MacArthur stated that the issue had been addressed and that the engine has been in disrepair for some time and leaked oil. Councilman MacArthur asked where the maintenance for this truck took place. H.S. MacArthur stated outside.

Supervisor Dias stated that **Resolution #7 of 2009: Board Resolution of the Town of Ancram to Purchase Equipment** had been offered and seconded. He called for a vote. 4 ayes (Miller, Hoyt, Dias and Mayhew) 1 nay (MacArthur). Motion carried.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman MacArthur and seconded by Councilwoman Hoyt and moved for adoption.

**Resolution #8 of 2006: Board Resolution of the Town of Ancram to Provide Maintenance for Highway Equipment**

WHEREAS: it is necessary to maintain equipment for the efficient operation of the Town of Ancram Highway Department;

RESOLVED: to allow a reman engine to be put into the 1994 Town of Ancram Highway Truck.

Mr. Dias asked for discussion. Mr. Dias stated that the project would cost an estimated \$15,000.00.

Councilwoman Hoyt asked if the 1994 was used all the time. Highway Superintendent MacArthur stated yes. Mrs. Hoyt stated if the town was to get approximately 12 months of a warrantee would the rest of the truck last that long. Councilman Miller stated that the truck had a fairly new bed on it

Mr. Brant suggested that considering that the 1993 truck is to light for summer work, then make that the spare truck and purchase one of the 2006's.

Councilwoman Hoyt asked how long it would take to have the new engine in. H. S. MacArthur stated approximately three weeks. Councilman Miller stated that he felt that once the engine was fixed there was another three to five years left in it. Mr. Miller and Mrs. Hoyt both stated that the truck engine would pay for itself over time.

Councilman MacArthur asked if the work would be cheaper someplace else. H. S. MacArthur stated no.

Supervisor Dias stated that **Resolution #8 of 2009: Board Resolution of the Town Of Ancram to Provide Maintenance for Highway Equipment** had been offered and seconded. He called for a vote. The resolution carried unanimously.

Mr. Dias introduced Mr. Gary Dietch. Mr. Dias stated that Mr. Dietch, a lifelong resident of Ancramdale, was interested in the Animal Control Officer position. The board had all been given a copy of his credentials as well as a list of duties of an animal control officer that Mr. Dietch had researched. Mr. Dias stated that he had told Mr. Dietch that the amount budgeted for 2009 for this position was \$2,000.00 He stated that he would also look into insurance issues. Councilman Mayhew stated that he felt Mr. Dietch was qualified for the job. Councilman MacArthur asked what Mr. Dietch did for a living. Mr. Dietch answered he worked as a electrician. Mr. MacArthur asked if Mr. Dietch

would be interested in conducting a dog census. Mr. Miller asked if Mr. Dietch owned a kennel. Mr. Dietch answered yes to both questions. Mr. Dias asked Mr. Dietch to come to the regular board meeting with a proposal.

Councilwoman Hoyt asked if the board had thought about which proposals to discuss at the Highway Garage Public Hearings. Mr. Dias stated that he felt the board should make 3 or 4 posters with key points on them to be placed in the front of the meeting room. Mrs. Hoyt asked how many proposals he suggested and which options. Mr. Dias stated that he would rough the ideas out and contact her. Councilman Mayhew asked if Mrs. Hoyt had spoken to Terry Boyles. Mrs. Hoyt stated she had and that her figures she low balled. Mr. Mayhew stated that his opinion was that Mr. Citrins proposal did not go with the towns agricultural look and that Mr. Mathews property was the best.

Councilman MacArthur asked if he could look into placing a plaque in the town hall with the names of all of the Supervisors of the Town of Ancram listed in order with years of service. A motion was made by Supervisor Dias and seconded by Councilman Mayhew to allow Councilman MacArthur to begin the process pf placing a commemorative Supervisors plaque in the Town Hall. Carried. The plaque will be paid for out of the Supervisors account.

Councilman Mayhew stated that he will be mailing out the first Town of Ancram newsletter sometime in the days ahead. He stated that there are close to 600 residents and tax payers who will be receiving them.

A motion was made by Supervisor Dias and seconded by Councilman MacArthur to allow Councilwoman Hoyt to decide where to hang the picture of longtime Town of Ancram Supervisor Gerald Simons. The picture is being moved due to the proximity of it in regards to the overhead projector. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Hoyt told the board members that she has called the towns present bank and that for a \$800,000.00 bond, the payments will be \$264,000.00 a year plus interest for 10 years. Councilman Mayhew stated that he felt the town could do better elsewhere.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Monica Cleveland  
Town Clerk