

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Public Hearing – LL#1 of 2013
February 21, 2013**

Present:	Supervisor Arthur Bassin	Councilman James Miller
	Councilman Chris Thomas	Councilman Hugh Clark
	Councilwoman Madeline Israel	Deputy Town Clerk Ruth Wittlinger

Public Hearing on Local Law #1 of 2013, Ancram Dog Control, was called to order at 6:57pm by Supervisor Bassin.

Mr. Bassin opened to the floor for comments.

Glenda Hermance and Nancy Bryant stated they came to the town board in 1996 to advocate for the first barking dog law. The 1997 noise law has barking dog provisions.

Mr. Bassin said that the 1997 noise law stated that a Judge can send out an appearance ticket. With this new dog law the ACO sends out the appearance ticket and acts as the prosecutor and will represent the town in court.

Mrs. Hermance stated that she felt it takes a long time for the ACO to respond and that by that time the animal has stopped barking. Mr. Bassin stated that the old law is very limited and that the new law is easier to prosecute.

Mrs. Nancy Bryant asked if other towns have similar laws.

Mr. Bassin stated that almost all other towns have barking dog laws, the Ancram ACO Wes Powell likes this law and says it is more like the other towns he serves.

Mrs. Hoyt asked if this was for dogs barking inside or out. Mr. Bassin stated both. Mrs. Hoyt asked what was to be done if the dog is inside and barking and the owner not home, what to do. Mr. Bassin suggested a bark collar.

Mr. Bassin stated that he has had a handful of emails on this law, both in support and against.

Mr. David Boice asked about coyotes howling. He stated that this makes his dog bark.

Mr. Amato asked what other towns do or if this is an issue only in Ancram. Mr. Bassin stated that this is a common problem in most towns. .

Mrs. Robin Beyer asked what to do with a barking dog at 2am.

Mrs. Hoyt stated that the law needs to protect all people and animals.

Mr. Bassin stated that the attorney suggested elimination the duplication of the language of the ag and markets law and other town dog laws, and that the new law should include a provision for incarceration of the owner for chronic violations. Mr. Bassin also noted that this law will give the ACO more authority and flexibility.

Mrs. Beyer asked why the ACO cannot right a ticket now? Mr. Bassin stated that in the 1997 town law, the ACO cannot write a ticket, but under the Ag 7 Markets law and the proposed new dog law, the ACE will be able to write appearance tickets.

Mr. Leroy Mayhew stated that he has hunting dogs that bark at the coyotes. He stated that he also has a neighbor who stands on their porch and provokes his dogs.

Mr. Bassin closed the hearing at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ruth Wittlinger, Deputy Town Clerk