

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
January 17, 2013**

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

The regular meeting of the Ancram Town Board was called to order at 7:15 pm by Supervisor Bassin with a salute to the flag.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the 12/20/2012, 1/3/13 Year End and 1/3/13 Organizational meetings as read with the wording concerning the executive session changed in the final drafts. Motion made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman Miller. Motion carried.

Fire Chief

David Boice reported that there were 14 calls in the last month. He suggested that all people pay attention to their heaters. The demolition of the fire house will begin in the next few days. The firehouse building committee was approached by a group who would like to see the proposed colors of the building and the type of doors changed. This will not change the cost but will be through donation. Group member Jennifer Brene stated that the changes would bring the building from the practical to the proud building. Mr. Boice stated that one item that may be purchased with donated funds is a water tank to fill the trucks. They are looking to raise \$40 to \$50,000.00. Mr. Clark asked if the changed doors will cause any extra maintenance. Mr. Boice stated that he will be contacting the chiefs in firehouses who have these doors already.

Supervisors Report

Financial Report: We ended 2012 about where we expected. Revenues were about \$93,000 better than the budget, and costs were about \$45,000 under budget after we spent about \$65,000 on unbudgeted highway equipment as part of the Highway Department's plan to upgrade their equipment inventory. We ended 2012 with \$680,000 in the bank, about \$150,000 more than we had budgeted. We are starting 2013 with about 50% of our 2013 spending plan already in the bank, in reserve. This cash reserve serves as insulation from any unexpected deterioration in Federal, State and County aid, which totals about \$350,000 of the Town's 2013 revenue budget of \$1.3 million. The Preliminary December YTD Financial Summary Chart is attached. The detailed financial reports will be sent to you via email when they are ready, and will be posted on the town web site at www.townofancram.org.

2013 Priorities: Here is my sense of the priorities for 2013. We will discuss these at our meeting on Thursday, and amend them as necessary based on your comments.

1. Complete the zoning and subdivision regulation revision effort

2. Improve the safety of the 82/7 Intersection
3. Adopt and implement the Heritage Resources Plan
4. Adopt the implement the Natural Resources Plan
5. Fix the barking dog and wind turbine noise problems
6. Increase financial reserves
7. Keep taxes flats in 2014

County Property Tax Bills Increase: The County tax bills came out early in the month. Most Ancram property owners saw a slight increase in their county taxes. While the County tax rate declined by .2%, Ancram taxable property values increased as a percentage of the total County, because other town's assessed values declined, while Ancram values stayed at last year's levels. Town taxes dropped about 4%.

Mr. Bassin stated that town assessor Ken Legget is up for reappointment in September. My Bassin stated that the board can either reappoint Mr. Legget or put out a RFP, which Mr. Legget could apply for. Mr. Legget stated to Mr. Bassin that he does not care either way and that he enjoys the job. All members agreed that they like Mr. Legget but that it would be the right thing to place the job for bid.

Mr. Bassin stated that the FAC will be looking at the town's books with the accountant on Saturday the 19th of January. On February the 2 at 9:30am, there will be a review of all the financials for the other departments.

Highway Department

Mr. MacArthur stated that he has turned in the 2013 284 agreement. It includes paving .6 miles of Wiltsie Bridge, 1 ½ miles of Boston Corners and maintenance.

Community Cleanup day will be held in April. It was agreed to change the amount for tires to \$2.00, \$5.00 if on a rim.

Mr. Bassin stated that the highway department had received a package on road salt from the CAC. It basically stated that the salt which is needed and used to improve road safety conditions, is bad for the environment. Mr. MacArthur stated that this comes down to a safety issue. The town uses 25% salt which is the low end of the normal amount. Other methods are costly. Mr. Dembo, CAC member, stated that the real issue is homeowners and contractors.

Mr. MacArthur stated that he is looking at purchasing a 2003 dump truck for \$35,000.00. The truck has 70,000 miles and that the sale of the 1994 will cover ½ of the price. Mr. Bassin stated that the purchase should be made out of the highway budget. A motion was made to that effect by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel. Motion carried.

Ethics Board

Mr. Lindsey, chair, stated that member Richard Wheeler had moved away. Mr. Lindsey stated that there were three applicants interested in the job and that he would like to find out if the board can have alternates. The Ethics Board recommended Mr. Eric Weiner as the replacement member with David Dembo and Fred Berliner as the two alternates. A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to appoint Mr. Weiner to the Ethics Board and to appoint Mr. Dembo and Mr. Berliner as alternate members subject to a conference call to the association of

towns to make sure this was permitted. Motion was carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Communications

There is a newsletter in progress at this time.

CAC

The CAC welcomed there new member Andrew Wilcox. Ms. Jamie Purinton, Chair, gave an overview of the activities of 2012.

Heritage Committee

Mr. Bassin asked that the Town Board members read and review the proposed heritage resources plan.

ZRC

At this time the board reviewed the SEQRA form for Package #4 of the Zoning Revisions page by page. Following this review, the following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved for adoption by roll call vote. Resolution carried unanimously.

Resolution #11 of 2013

ZRC package 4 - SEQRA Negative Declaration: RESOLUTION
ANCRAM TOWN BOARD

NEGATIVE DECLARATION - TYPE I ACTION – Package 4

Date: January 17, 2013

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Ancram (“Town Board”) duly appointed a Zoning Revisions Committee to implement, in part, the Town Comprehensive Plan through zoning ordinance amendments; and

WHEREAS, the Zoning Revisions Committee developed Package 4 of a set of proposed amendments to address the recommended strategies of the adopted Comprehensive and subsequently submitted them to the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has submitted the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments to the Columbia County Planning Board as required by NYS General Municipal Law 239-m and the proposed action does not require any other permits or approvals from other State and Federal agencies prior to adoption; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board declared itself Lead Agency and conducted an environmental assessment according to SEQRA, 6 NYCRR Part 617; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board, after consideration of the Full Environmental Assessment Form Part I and Part II finds that the proposed amendments will benefit the environment and not cause adverse impacts as they:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Ancram Town Board hereby declares that adoption of the Zoning Ordinance Amendments described herein, will not have any significant adverse environmental impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes filing of a negative declaration (attached hereto), according to SEQRA, 6 NYCRR Part 617; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to execute the Full Environmental Assessment Form.

WHEREUPON, this Resolution was declared adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Ancram:

Mr. Bassin suggested that the Town Board hold a public hearing on the proposed revised town dog law prior to the next town board meeting.

Mr Bassin stated that the 82/7 intersection retaining wall had been shored up with fill for the winter.

Mr. Bassin announced that there were complaints from residents on Crest Lane and East Ancram Road concerning the sound of the wind turbines. Mr. Bassin stated that he has learned that there are known problems with these type of Burgey wind towers.

Mr. Bassin spoke about the new green buildings law tax exemption. The Board has to decide if they wish to do this. More information will be available over the next few months.

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Clark to adjourn to executive session to discuss matters leading to the discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or persons. Motion carried.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Clark to resume the regular meeting following an executive session to discuss matters leading to the discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or persons. Motion carried.

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

Respectively submitted by,

Monica Cleveland

Town Clerk