

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
November 15, 2012**

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

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

Mr. Bassin introduced Mr. Neil Howard, the Superintendent of Taconic Hills School, to those gathered. Jamie Purinton told Mr. Howard that the CAC would love to offer their services to the school for any older children who would like to work with them.

Mr. Bassin introduced Mr. Doug Weaver to the meeting. Mr. Weaver spoke to the board about placing a leech field for the Simons Store onto Blass Memorial Park. This seems to be the only option for this building. Mr. Bassin stated that he has spoken to the Association of Towns and that if the town does this, the board will have to pass a resolution that would have to then be approved by the NYS Legislature. Councilwoman Israel asked if the entire ball field would have to be used. Mr. Weaver stated the leech field would be up against the bank and that the spot would be returned to its current state. Clara VanTassel asked if there was the possibility of the field leeching into the town pool. Mr. Weaver stated that there was no possibility and that the field would be no larger than the size needed for a large house. The structure would also have to be traffic bearing. Mr. Bassin stated that the County will have to approve the kid's camp to continue to use Blass Field after the leech field is put in. It was questioned if other properties around the field could use it as well. Mr. Weaver stated that this would be up to the owners. Mrs. Israel asked if the owners, not the town, would be responsible for upkeep. Mr. Weaver stated it would. Mr. Bassin stated that the board will have to do their homework on this. Peggy Lampman stated that either way, this needs to be addressed.

The approval for the minutes was deferred to the next month as not all of the members had a chance to read them.

Fire Chief

Mr. Boice stated that the Department had been busy with 16 calls. They were grateful that the town was not overly impacted by Hurricane Sandy. They were able to provide dry ice and water for those without power.

Mr. Boice gave an overview of the proposed addition to the firehouse. The department is going with Joe Iuvine as the architect. Once they had received the bids, they took out some of the options. The town highway department will handle the excavating. The estimated cost of \$895,438.00. The referendum vote for the bond will be held on December 18, 2012. A meeting and election of commissioners will be held December 11, 2012. As for the bond, the estimated cost will be 8 cents per 1,000.

Supervisors Report

Supervisor Bassin gave the following report:

Financial Report: Spending for the nine months ending September 2012 totaled \$1,029,000, about on budget, and about \$160,000 better than September YTD last year. Our spending this year continues to benefit from the mild winter (\$45,000), from moving our Rescue Squad costs to the county (\$84,000) and from having no playground costs this year (\$20,000). Revenues, in aggregate, appear to be tracking slightly above budget. We ended September with \$817,000 in the bank, and assuming no unpleasant surprises, expect to end the year with over \$550,000 in the bank, which is about \$50,000 more than I have been expecting. The September YTD Financial Summary Chart is attached. The detailed budget reports are available on the home page of the Town website (www.townofancram.org) as part of the background for the September TB meeting, and at Town Hall, and have been emailed to you separately.

Zoning Revisions: We will review and adopt Package 3 with the proposed minor revisions to setbacks at the TB meeting next week, and will discuss Package 4, which we will consider for adoption at the November TB meeting. Public Hearing for package 4 is Monday, October 17 at 7 pm.

2013 Preliminary Budget: We will do a public hearing on the Preliminary 2013 Town Budget at 6:30 on October 18, right before the TB meeting. The Preliminary Budget proposes a tax cut of \$33,000 and a contingent account of \$72,000. We will consider the budget for adoption at the November TB meeting.

82/7 Intersection: The County and State are starting on this project this month.

Wind Turbines: We will be getting a short presentation on wind turbines and the low wind speed noise problems on Carson Rd on Thursday from Doug Passeri of Hudson Valley Wind Energy.

Historical and Cultural Resources Survey: We have received about \$8500 in donations so far. I hope to have \$10,000 by the end of the year.

Dog Law: We will discuss a proposed new dog law on Thursday, modeled on the New Lebanon law.

County Issues

Homeless shelter: With the number of homeless singles at around 16, down 50% from a year ago, the plan for the 37 room homeless facility has been tabled. DSS is looking into other options.

2013 County Budget: The County has started the 2013 budget process, and will be looking to hold County taxes flat again in 2013, for the third consecutive year. Nothing definite will be available probably until mid-December.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved for adoption. Unanimously carried by roll call vote.

Resolution #34 of 2012: Rescue Squad Chargeback:

Resolved that the Ancram Town Supervisor is authorized to sign an agreement with the County of Columbia Treasurer whereby the County of Columbia will pay on behalf of the Town of Ancram the sum of \$89,275 to the Claussen-Raught Community Rescue Squad, and raise this sum as part of the County's 2013 tax levy on the Town of Ancram.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved for adoption. Unanimously carried by roll call vote.

Resolution #35 of 2012: Adoption of 2013 Town Budget:

Whereas the Ancram town Board has reviewed and approved the Tentative and Preliminary 2013 Town Budgets, and whereas the proposed 2013 budget presented for adoption has not changed in any material ways from the previously approved 2013 Preliminary Budget, and whereas the proposed 2013 Budget provides adequate funds for the Town to operate during 2013 while reducing town property taxes by 4%, therefore it is resolved that the proposed 2013 Town of Ancram Budget be adopted, and it is further resolved that the Ancram Town Supervisor will deliver this budget to the County Treasurer before November 20, 2012, that the Adopted 2013 Budget be posted on the Town website and that the Town Clerk have copies of the 2013 Adopted Budget available for members of the community who want a hard copy of this budget.

Mr. Bassin announced that the Year End meeting will be held on January 3, 2013 at 7:00pm. Mr. Bassin handed out a draft of the markups made to the 2013 meeting resolutions.

Mr. Bassin spoke on the unemployment insurance. At this time the town pays a percentage which equals about \$2,000.00 a year. If the town became a self insurer, the price to pay out could be as much as \$10,000.00. Mr. Bassin recommended that the town continue to pay the \$2,000.00 policy. The board agreed.

Highway Department

The Town Board will schedule a drive around of the town roads. The Highway Department will schedule a cleanup day in the spring.

Ethics Department:

Monica Cleveland, Secretary of the Ethics Board, read the following notice on behalf of the board:

The Ethics Board for the Town of Ancram is seeking candidates to be considered to fill one vacancy on its Board. Appointment to the Board of Ethics is made for a term of five years and is open to any Ancram Township resident. Nominees and interested individuals will be interviewed and are determined by a consensus of the current sitting Ethics Board members who present the selected candidate for formal appointment by Ancram's Town Board. Additional information on Ancram's Ethics Law, and on the responsibilities of Ethics Board members may be obtained from the Town's Website (www.TownofAncram.org) or by contacting Monica Cleveland, Town Clerk, and recording archivist for the Board of Ethics at 518- 329-6512 ext. 1. Interested parties, or anyone wishing to nominate someone for consideration should notify Monica Cleveland at the above website or by phone. Nominations will be accepted until November 30th, 2012.

Youth Commission

The Ancram Youth Commission will hold a Christmas Party this year. Date, time and place TBA.

Communications:

A newsletter will be coming out in the next few weeks. The committee is also working on the website.

Mr. Bassin introduced Christine Boyles, who works for the town pool as a lifeguard and is a senior at Pine Plains school. She wrote a letter to Mr. Bassin asking for the town to put in more money and effort at the town pool. The board decided to start with putting a sign up in Blass Park to advertise the pool.

CAC

The CAC has worked on making the purchasing policy more green friendly. They announced that they have received a grant and would like to begin working on a heritage preservation plan.

ZRC

The ZRC is working on going through the CAC and the County Planning Board comments.

Ancram Revitalization Committee

Mr. Bassin and Mrs. VanTassel stated that the historical survey has started with photos being taken in both of the Hamlets of Ancram and Boston Corners. Jamie and the CAC would like the survey to landscape history.

Building Manager

The cameras for the court have been installed.

Mr. Bassin stated that the ZRC package #4 SEQRA will be gone over at the next month's meeting.

Mr. Bassin asked that the revised Dog Law be gone through by the town board by the next meeting.

Mr. Bassin asked if there were any comments on the Green additions to the purchasing policy. Clerk Cleveland stated she felt all of the offices that make purchases look at it.

The following General budget adjustment was offered by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved for adoption. Motion Carried.

To 1110.4 \$2,650.00 from Fund Balance JCAP Grant \$2,650.00.

The following Highway budget adjustment was offered by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Miller and moved for adoption. Motion carried.

To: 5130.4 \$7,000.00 from 5142.4 \$7,000.00

To: 9010.8 \$3,600.00 from 9060.8 \$3,600.00

To 5110.1 \$18,000.00 from Fund Balance \$18,000.00

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

Adrienne Citrin thanked the Highway Department for their help and the use of the building for the NHN Holiday Pot Luck.

The Next Town Board meeting will be held December 20, 2012 at 7:00pm.

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk