

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
October 20, 2011**

Present:	Supervisor Arthur Bassin	Councilman James Miller
	Councilman John MacArthur	Councilman Chris Thomas
	Councilwoman Madeline Israel	Town Clerk Monica Cleveland

Supervisor Arthur Bassin called the regular meeting of the Ancram Town Board to order at 7:30pm following the 2012 budget public hearing, with a salute to the flag.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to accept the 9/15/2011 Town board meeting minutes and have them placed on record. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Supervisor Bassin to accept the 9/12/2011 Public Hearing minutes on the second package of Zoning amendments, and have them placed on record. Motion carried.

Supervisors Report;

September Financial Report: Revenues and expenses continue on budget for the first nine months of 2011, in both the Highway Department and Town Government. Ancram's total spending for the first nine months was \$1,231,000, including \$123,000 for two "new" used plow/dump trucks and a new front end loader for the Highway Department. Cash in the bank as of 9/30/11 was \$827,000. Also included our 2011 expenses through the third quarter are payments for the first installment of our ten-year garage loan (\$52,000 in principal and interest), and about \$42,000 for the conversion of the milk factory building to a salt shed. Based on forecast revenue and spending for the rest of the year, we still expect we will end the year with over \$500,000 in the bank.

2012 Preliminary Budget: We will hold a public hearing on the 2012 Preliminary Budget at 6:45 pm on 10/20, prior to the town Board Meeting. The budget proposes that town property taxes drop by \$84,000 in 2012, which will be offset by an equal increase in county property taxes, as we shift the payment of the rescue squad from the town to the county. With the exception of this shift in taxes, town taxes will remain flat in 2012, for the third year. I have emailed you a copy of the Preliminary Budget, which is available in hard copy from the Town Clerk, and on the Town website. We will also review and discuss the preliminary budget during the 10/20 TB meeting, and will make whatever changes we feel are appropriate prior to considering the final budget for adoption at our November TB meeting.

Zoning Revisions Process: We will review and consider the Site Plan and Open Space Subdivision zoning amendments for adoption at the 10/20 TB meeting. We have previously held a public hearing on these proposed zoning amendments, and reviewed the long form EAF and made a negative declaration to meet SEQRA requirements. We have also received and considered Columbia County and Ancram Planning Board comments, and comments from the CAC and individuals who have comments at the public hearing and in writing about these proposed amendments.

County Issue - DSS Space: The County has decided to buy 25 RR Avenue, where the Department of Social Services currently is housed, for approximately \$1.3 million, subject to a Phase 2 contamination assessment and other routine due diligence. There is no immediate need for any capital investment to

make the 25 RR Ave space ready for DSS operations, as the DSS staff has been there for 20 years. I support this decision and voted for it, as the least cost and least disruptive solution. The 125,000 sf Walmart space alternative would cost about \$15 million more to buy and build out, and would cost about \$1 million more a year to finance and operate.

Mr. Bassin announced that the town has received word from the state that the speed limit had been lowered to 35 mph on Dam Road and Poole Hill Road. Mr. Bassin stated that the town of Gallatin has asked the town of Ancram to apply for lowering the 55 mph speed limit on the Ancram section of County Route 7 which joins Gallatin to 45. The 35 mph sections of CR 7 would continue to stay at 35 mph. Councilman MacArthur suggested that the town lower all of the 55 mph sections Route 7 to 45 mph – all the way to the Copake line. The Board decided to think about this and discuss it again next month.

Mr. Bassin stated that the owner of the Tin Smith House and the County were in talks over the house on the corner of CR 7 and 82 in Ancram. The county is interested in improving the safety fo that intersection.

Mr. Bob Mayhew asked that there be lines painted on Hall Hill Road.

Councilman MacArthur asked if there was a way to have people use the front door of the town hall, and not the side door as an entrance

Highway Department:

Mr. Bassin stated that Mr. MacArthur is at a VFW event. He stated that he wanted it announced that the Salt Shed is fully operational.

Zoning Packet #2

Mr. Bassin asked for comments on the Zoning Packet #2. Councilman Miller stated that he felt it is good shape. Councilwoman Israel stated that she felt it has been gone over well and that it is an admirable job. Councilman MacArthur stated he thought it was a good job.

CAC member Jamie Purinton stated that she still feels that the words related to the planning board referring minor subdivisions to the CAC should be changed from “may refer” to “shall refer”. Mr. Bassin stated that he thought in the document the word “may” is in regards to small subdivisions and the word “shall” is in regards to the larger projects. Mrs. Hoyt stated that she felt that by using the word “shall” for everything was a legal issue and that was why the committee stayed away from it. ZRC member Bonnie Hundt stated that replacing “may” with the word “shall” was a good idea but that the majority wanted the word “may”.

Bob Mayhew stated that the Planning Board needs the Bio-diversity maps and that the sooner they get them the better. Jamie Purinton stated that the CAC is doing this large job for free so the town does not have to hire an outside contractor. The project will take about 10 years.

Mr. Bassin state that the board can pass the proposed zoning amendments later tonight.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Mr. Bassin stated that there are many legal gaps in the proposed Highway Manual. He has a proposal from a company to fix the manual for \$2,000.00. The manual will be specific to all hired town employees.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Miller and moved for adoption by roll call vote. Ayes: Councilman Miller, Councilwoman Israel and Supervisor Bassin. Nays: Councilman MacArthur and Councilman Thomas. Motion carried.

CELL TOWER

Mr. Roth stated that Copake is building their cell tower. Ancram is the next in the link and then Ancramdale, as long as an agreement can be made.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Mr. Bassin stated that there has been an increase in the amount of stray dogs in Ancram.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Budget Adjustment #1 of October 2011

To: 1910.4: \$200.00
7110.4: \$2,000.00
7310.1: \$10,000.00
8010.11: \$2,000.00
9050.8: \$200.00
8020.4Z: \$4,500.00
1220.4: \$500.00

From: Appropriated Fund Balance: \$19,400.00

A motion was made by Councilman MacArthur and seconded by Councilman Miller to accept budget Adjustment #1 of October 2011. Motion carried.

Budget Adjustment #2 of October 2011

To: 5142.4: \$13,314.00
5130.2: \$25,000.00
5130.4: \$22,000.00

From: Appropriated Funds Balance: \$60,314.00

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to accept budget Adjustment #2 of October 2011. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and accepted by Councilman Thomas to pay the bills. Motion carried.

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

Resolution #41 of 2011: ZRC Package 2 Adoption:

In the Matter of the Adoption of the Town of Ancram Zoning Law Amendments Section XIII (Site Plan Review) and Section V (I) Open Space Conservation Subdivisions

WHEREAS, the Town of Ancram adopted a Comprehensive Plan, which is a statutorily recognized instrument under Town Law §272-a for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development in a Town; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Ancram Comprehensive Plan encourages the Town to improve its zoning ordinance to be more effective and efficient; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ancram Town Board, created the Ancram Zoning Revisions Committee to draft changes to the Ancram Zoning Ordinance as recommended in the Town of Ancram Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Ancram Zoning Revisions Committee after careful review, prepared these draft amendments to the Zoning Ordinance in accordance with the adopted Town of Ancram Comprehensive Plan with the assistance of a professional planner and attorney; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the draft amendments to new Section XIII (Site Plan Review) and Section V(I) (Open Space Conservation Subdivision) and submitted it to the Town of Ancram Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Conservation Advisory Council for advisory opinions, and conducted a public hearing thereon; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Ancram has caused to be prepared a Long Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) pursuant to the mandates of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (ECL Article 8 and 6 NYCRR Part 617); and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has duly considered the contents of the EAF and completed Parts 2 thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has identified the relevant areas of environmental inquiry and taken a hard look at them; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has issued a negative declaration under SEQRA thereby complying with the mandates of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has completed requirements of NYS General Municipal Law 239-m by forwarding a copy of the draft plan to the Columbia County Planning Department and waiting 30 days for their response.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS BY THE TOWN BOARD OF ANCRAM, COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK:

THAT THE Town Board of the Town of Ancram hereby adopts the Town of Ancram amendments to the Zoning Ordinance new Section XIII (Site Plan Review) and Section V(I) Open Space Conservation Subdivision); and

THAT THE Town Board shall enter these amendments into the minutes of the Town Board and shall publish a summary or abstract of these amendments once in the official newspaper of the Town; and

THAT THE Town Board instructs the Town Clerk of the Town of Ancram to maintain a file in her office in the Town Hall to contain all parts of these amendments; and

THAT THE Town Board ensure that all parts of these amendments be posted on the Town's website; and

THAT THE Town Board cause affidavits of the publication and posting of the amendments be filed with the Town Clerk.

The following resolution was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman MacArthur and moved for adoption by roll call vote. Motion carried.

Resolution #42 of 2011: County Route 7 Speed Limit Reduction from 55 to 45 mph:

Whereas the Town of Gallatin has requested that the Town of Ancram submit a request to the County and State to reduce the speed limit on that portion of CR 7, between Ancram and Gallatin which is currently posted at 55 mph, to 45 mph, and whereas the Ancram Town Board believes this speed limit reduction will be in the best interests of public health and safety, therefore it is resolved that the Ancram Town Board authorizes the Ancram Town Supervisor and Ancram Town Clerk to submit the necessary applications and paperwork to the County and State to initiate the process to reduce the speed limit on CR 7 between Ancram and Gallatin that currently is 55 to 45 mph, while leaving at 35 mph that portion of CR7 in the Hamlet of Ancram that is currently posted at 35 mph.

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

Resolution #43 of 2011: Online Tax Bill County chargeback: Whereas the County Department of Real Property has recommended that all towns in Columbia County post their property tax payments on line and make this information available to the public via the town and county web site, and whereas the County Board of supervisors has authorized the payment of the costs for this service to be handled as a county chargeback, therefore the Ancram Town Board authorizes the Ancram Town Supervisor to enter into a chargeback agreement with the County Treasurer to add a one time charge of approximately \$1100 to the County Tax levy for the Town of Ancram for the set-up of this online tax payment system, and to charge approximately \$200 per year via the chargeback system for the ongoing maintenance of the online property tax payment system.

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

Resolution #44 of 2011: Rescue Squad County chargeback: Whereas the Columbia County Board of supervisors has authorized Towns in the county to use the county chargeback system to pay for their EMS services, and whereas the Ancram Town Board wishes to participate in this county chargeback payment process for EMS services, therefore it is resolved that the Ancram Town Supervisor is authorized to enter into a chargeback agreement with the County

Treasurer on an annual basis to authorize the County Treasurer to pay the annual costs of the community rescue squad which serves the residents of the Town of Ancram and add those costs to the annual County tax levy charged to the taxpayers of Ancram, provided that the town of Ancram continue to negotiate the cost of rescue squad services, and provided that the amount of the rescue squad services budgeted for 2012 and added to the county tax levy be reduced from the 2012 Town tax levy.

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

Resolution #45 of 2011: Appointment of Planning Board/ZBA Secretary: Resolved that Naomi Davies be appointed as the Planning Board and ZBA secretary, effective 9/15/11.

Mr. Bob Mayhew asked Mr. Bassin for a reply to a previous e-mail he had sent him in regards to a highway issue on Sawchuck Road. Mr. Bassin stated that Mr. Mayhew needed to speak to the Highway Superintendent.

There being no more business, a motion was made by Councilman MacArthur and seconded by Councilman Miller to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk