

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
June 18, 2015**

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

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

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to approve the minutes of the last meeting as read and have them placed on the record.

Fire Chief

Fire Chief David Boice reported that it had been a slow month. He asked if the town board could possibly ask the state to have a sign placed on Route 82 near the turn on to County Route 7. Many large trucks and campers attempt to make the turn and get hung up on the curve, which then shuts down the road for some time. Mr. Boice reported that the ballfield had been cut and that the first game will be Ancram vs. Taconic on June 28th at 5:30pm.

Supervisors Report

Town Issues

1. Financial Report – We ended May with \$1.15 million in the bank. Revenues and spending through the end of May were as expected. Excluding about \$9000 in one time grants we got last year, YTD May revenues were flat to the same period in 2014, while spending this year was about \$3000 under the same period last year. Assuming no extraordinary financial events, we are on track to come in pretty much on budget for 2015.

2. 2016 Budget - Preliminary indications are we will be able to reduce town taxes by about 1% (\$8,000) as part of the 2016 budget. We will start the formal budget process in mid-July, after we get June year to date numbers. I expect spending levels next year to be about the same in aggregate as this year. I anticipate the savings available from eliminating the deputy building inspector position (\$5300), reducing assessor clerk hours (\$4000), bringing lawn maintenance into the highway department (\$5000), maintenance and fuel saves in the highway department related to the new trucks (\$20,000) and a reduction in the contingency account will offset the cost of the loan interest & principal payment for one new plow truck (\$44,000) and any salary & benefit cost increases we are faced with.

3. Plow truck purchase - Bank of Greene County agreed to extend our 1.99% five year loan proposal through the end of August, when we expect to take possession of the two new plow trucks. The major issue for the Town Board is to decide whether to finance both trucks and borrow about \$400,000, or to borrow for one and pay cash for the other. We currently have about \$700,000 in cash reserves. If we pay \$200,000 cash for one truck, we would end 2015 with about \$500,000 cash in the bank, and would probably end 2016 with about \$550,000 to \$575,000 in cash.

County Issues

1. Airport - County is working with an adjacent landowner to cut down two clusters of trees that are causing the FAA some concern. Other than that, we are still working with FAA on plans & grant applications to implement the 300 foot runway safety area on County owned land on the south end of the runway, to meet FAA guidelines.

2. Pine Haven – Nothing new to report. We are still working on the contract of sale.

3. CEDC - Recent events have been well covered in the papers. The major issue facing the County BOS is whether to continue funding CEDC or not. That issue will depend on the success of the CEDC board restructuring process, the resignation of several CEDC board members, and negotiating a satisfactory contract with CEDC which provides adequate governance, control and reporting processes to allow for County oversight over the use of the \$437,000 of taxpayer money the County currently provides CEDC. There is also some discussion within the CEDC about "going private" and operating without County taxpayer money. This would eliminate the County's need to oversee the CEDC

Mr. Seiber questioned that it was now June and the town board is only now receiving the audit report.

Mr. Bassin reminded everyone that there will be a party in honor of Mary Boice's retirement on June 20, 2015 at 2:00pm here at the town hall.

Town Board

Councilwoman Israel asked that the town allow the town hall to once again be a stop on the Roe Jan Ramble which will take place September 19th. The Ramble will be a course through Ancram, Copake and Hillsdale. The town hall will be used for a rest spot. The board felt that this was okay.

Planning Board

Reported that they were busy.

ZBA

The ZBA reported that they were discussing a possible area variance.

CAC

The CAC is helping with activities each week for the Kid's Camp.

Historian

Mr. Bassin suggested that everyone take time to look at the Civil War uniform and accompanying documents in the hall way. The articles will be with us to the new year.

Assessor

Mr. Bassin informed the board that with their permission, the Assessor will do as he did last year and only have his office open Saturdays by appointment. This is the slow season. The office will be looking to replace the assessors clerk as well, by the end of the summer.

Animal Control

Mrs. Israel raised a question about feral cats. Mr. Bassin said that Bev Ditto takes care of this area.

Councilman Thomas stated that the tree company contracted by Central Hudson had destroyed the bicentennial tree on Four Corners. Mr. Thomas wondered if there was anyone overseeing what they were trimming.

Pool Planning Committee

Mr. Boice said that the repairs to the fencing and the decking would most likely take place in the fall as the pool is now open. Colleen Lutz will look into woodchips for the play area at the pool.

Kid's Camp

The progress on the kids camp is great, Mr. Bassin announced. Samantha Mason is doing a wonderful job having met with the county for the permit. Training has been done by the counselors. There is at this time an average of 25 children signed up for each week with more applications coming in.

Volunteers

The board talked about the possible volunteer celebration. They decided late October or early November for the event.

Reval

The internal revaluation being done in the assessor's office has received back about 800 of the property cards which were sent out.

Culvert Study Grant

The grant application went in on Monday. The town is looking for about \$220,000 in funding. We should hear back in August.

Elections

The caucuses will be held as follows for the upcoming elections: Republican's 7/21 at 7pm and the Democrats 8/8 at 4:30pm.

The following budget adjustment to the Highway budget was offered by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and passed unanimously: \$2000 from 5110.4 repairs to 5130.4 machinery.

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

Councilman Miller announced at this time that he would not be seeking reelection for his Council seat and would instead be running for the Highway Superintendent seat.

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Monica R. B. Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk