

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
March 19, 2015**

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 7:00pm by Supervisor Arthur Bassin with a salute to the flag.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Thomas to accept the minutes of the previous meeting with edits. Motion carried.

Mr. Bassin opened the floor to Anne Rader to speak about a possible Puppy Mill and Dog Tethering law. Mrs. Rader said that tethering a dog is inhumane and she read a quote from the USDA about tethering 24/7. She stated that the puppy mills are what are regarded as backyard breeders who breed unhealthy puppies. She said that currently there are no puppy mills in Ancram but that it could be an issue in the future.

Mr. Bassin stated that NYS is allowing towns to pass their own tethering and puppy mill laws. He asked how many towns have done so. Mrs. Rader stated no towns have done so, but the counties of Albany, Nassau and Suffolk have passed puppy mill laws and Amherst is looking at it. For tethering the counties of Ulster and Suffolk have passed laws.

Mr. Bassin asked if under state law, can the puppy mills be stopped. Libby Post of the NYS Animal Protection Federation, stated that there is nobody in Ag and Markets who is responsible for this. She stated that Puppy Mills are far down on the list of priorities for Ag & Markets. Mr. Bassin stated that he is concerned that the town is at the end of the chain and has far less resources than the County and the State. The town has to be careful with its money. Libby Post stated that if there was a law, people would be less apt to set up a mill.

Ms. Post read a letter to the town board. The letter is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Mr. Bassin questioned why the State does not change its law to make it stronger. Ms. Post stated that the towns can get legislation through much faster. Mr. Citrin asked what happens if the County passes a law. Mr. Bassin stated that if the town passes the law, the town then has to pay to enforce it. If the County passes the law, then the County pays to enforce it. Mr. Bassin questioned if the County had been approached about this issue. Ms. Rader stated that she has begun with the town but will lobby the County and the State.

Mrs. Hoyt stated that she thought these issues were touched on in the new Zoning law. Councilman Clark said that it was with the commercial kennel, which was a special use permit that has to be renewed and limits the number of dogs on the property. Mrs. Hoyt suggested that this would stop the abuse of the Puppy Mills without enacting another law. Mr. Clark said that the zoning will regulate the amount of dogs allowed for sale, the minimum lot sizes, set backs, fencing, heat and ventilation, maximum number of animals and

the like. Mr. Clark said the ASPCA does go further with temperature. Mr. Jack Lindsey asked what would be involved in adding puppy mills to zoning with more specific language. Mr. Clark said it would be an amendment.

Mrs. Hoyt asked what the difference was between a kennel and a puppy mill. Dr. Tina Aiken said that a puppy mill law would give specifics for space and climate. Mr. Lindsey suggested referencing the SPCA standards in the zoning law. Mr. Citrin said that there are different types of kennels for different breeds of dogs. Mr. Boice said he saw a problem once a law was passed - being enforcement of the law, which then falls on the town. Choral Eddie stated that she has had this conversation of tethering with people and have come to the conclusion that for the most part, animals are very well taken care of in Ancram. Anne Margret said that a person can be a breeder but not call themselves a kennel. It all depends on if they say they are a kennel.

Councilman Thomas stated that if a person is going to do something illegal, they are not going to tell. Mr. Bob Murphy asked about calling Wes Powell if there is tethering issue. Libby Post said that there is a problem with resources.

Mr. Bassin asked for a consensus from the board. Mr. Thomas said that he had a problem with enforcement. Mr. Miller suggested tabling it for now. Mrs. Israel said that while she was in favor for it, she was concerned with money for enforcement. Mr. Clark stated that he questioned aspects of the definitions and the enforcement and questions were raised for him about processes, enforcement and money. Mr. Bassin said that he felt that Ancram should not be the first town in New York state to pass these laws. He felt that the town is a few years away from this. He suggested postponing the discussion for six months.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bassin and seconded by Councilman Thomas to table the puppy mill and tethering law conversation for six months. Motion carried.

Fire District

Mr. Boice stated that the fire district has made use of the water fill up system this winter and following a fire in Taconic, the Taconic fire trucks also used the system. Mr. Terry Boyles said the Fire District is running smoothly.

Supervisors Report

Supervisor Bassin gave the following report:

Town Issues

1. Financial Report – We ended February with \$1.293 million in the bank. Revenues and spending for the two months ending February 28 were normal, and slightly under the first two months of 2014. Highway spending this year has been about \$27,000 under last year, and general fund spending has been about \$10,000 under the same period last year.

2. Two new plow trucks – Highway Superintendent Jim MacArthur has reviewed with FAC his proposal that we buy 2 new Kenworth plow trucks for about \$400,000. If we do this, Jim believes we will not need another new truck for 5 years, when the loan to buy these two new trucks will have been paid off. Jim expects to sell the two trucks we will be replacing, which will reduce the cost of the loan to buy these new trucks by about \$20,000, and Jim estimates we will save about \$20,000 annually in maintenance. We can borrow the total cost of the trucks for 5 years at 1.99%, and because the loan will be 5 years or less, no referendum is necessary. Our annual payment for the two trucks will be about \$80,000, which is the amount of our annual contingent account budget. Assuming the highway department contributes \$40,000 to the annual cost of the truck payments, we will be able to handle the truck payments with no tax

increase and still maintain a \$40,000 annual contingent budget for “emergencies. We will probably take down the loan late summer or early fall 2015, so our first \$80,000 payment will be due a year later. As you may recall, we had been paying \$40,000 a year plus interest for the garage loan we took down in 2010, which we paid off last summer. That loan was at 2.99%. By year end 2015 we should have a cash reserve of about \$700,000, up from the \$632,000 we ended 2014 with. Even if we borrow the \$400,000 to buy these two new trucks, we should end 2016 with about \$750,000 in the bank, and may be in a position to prepay the truck loan in two or three years. FAC recommends that we approve Jim’s request to buy the two new trucks. .

3. Pool Plan – Bob Wilcox reviewed the preliminary pool plan with FAC on Saturday. The Pool Committee is recommending that we do not move the pool from Blass Field to the Town Hall – it’s just too expensive to build a new pool and support complex at TH. The Committee has identified investments we may want to consider to improve the pool complex in place. The issue is what the likely level of pool usage will be in the future, and whether there is and will be enough usage of the pool going forward to justify major investments. Bob and other pool committee members will review their process and findings with the TB on Thursday, and recommend next steps.

4. Kid’s Camp Director – No interest yet in the Kid’s Camp director job.

County Issues

1. Airport – Still waiting for FAA approval to reclassify the airport from D II to B II. FAA has indicated it could be a 60 - 90 day process.

2. Pine Haven – BOS voted to sell Pine Haven to Premier. Next step is to negotiate the contract and apply to the NYS BOH for approval. The process could take a year. Premier will assume management responsibility for the PH facility over the next few months, and should be able to improve operations and the economics of the facility.

3. Summer intern program - County is offering summer intern positions to county residents on their way to college in the Fall, or in college currently. Each Supervisor is allowed to appoint one individual. I have already received an application from a very well qualified Ancram college senior, who I plan to appoint to the position. There may be other positions available, so I will circulate the information to the Ancram email list to solicit other applicants.

Mr. Bassin said that he has one interested person, Marissa McBroom of Sage College, looking for a position in the Public Health Department.

A motion was made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman Miller to approve the proposed language for the 2015 Lawn care and Pool bid packets. Motion carried. Bid packets will be available at the Town Clerk’s office.

Town Clerk Monica Cleveland commented on an audit that happened in another town that stated that the town needed a time clock for Town Hall employees. She asked if the board feels the need for that in Ancram. It was decided that the town employees filling out regular fill in time cards was sufficient.

Mr. David Boice asked Mr. Bassin about the proposed sale of Pine Haven and the fact that the Firemen have a training tower on the property. Mr. Bassin said it has been discussed and that they can move the tower but do not know when or where. Mr. MacArthur stated that they are looking for a new site.

Highway

Mr. MacArthur reported that the Kenworth trucks are about \$10,000 cheaper than the trucks previously looked at. The trucks will be about \$193,000, less the amount made selling the old trucks. The borrowing the town is looking at is for five years at 1.99%. The payment will come from the contingent budget line at \$80,000 and \$40,000 from the Highway account.

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

Resolution #12 of 2015: Purchase two plow trucks:

Resolved, that the Ancram Highway Superintendent and the Ancram Town Supervisor are authorized to enter into agreements to purchase two Kenworth T 800 trucks fitted with steel dump bodies and plows for an approximate cost of \$400,000, and it is further resolved that the Highway Superintendent is authorized to sell the two currently owned plow trucks that these new trucks are replacing.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Clark and moved for adoption through roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously and the following resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted:

Resolution #13 of 2015: Bond Resolution for purchase of two plow trucks:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF TWO PLOW TRUCKS AND ISSUANCE OF SERIAL BONDS OF THE TOWN OF ANCRAM, COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$400,000 PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL FINANCE LAW TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF, AND DELEGATING CERTAIN POWERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH TO THE TOWN SUPERVISOR

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Ancram, Columbia County, New York (the "Town") (by the favorable vote of not less than two-thirds of all of the members of the Town Board) as follows:

SECTION 1. The specific purpose (hereinafter referred to as "purpose") to be financed pursuant to this resolution is the acquisition of two Kenworth trucks with dump body plow and wing for highway maintenance purposes. The aggregate estimated maximum cost of said purpose is \$400,000 and said amount is hereby appropriated therefor. It is hereby determined that said purpose is an object or purpose described in subdivision 28 of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law, and that the period of probable usefulness of said purpose is fifteen years.

SECTION 2. It is hereby determined that the aforesaid purpose constitutes a Type II action as defined under the State Environmental Quality Review Regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617, which has been determined under SEQRA not to have a significant impact on the environment.

SECTION 3. It is hereby determined that the proposed maturity of the obligations authorized by this resolution will not be in excess of five years from the original date of issuance of such obligations.

SECTION 4. The Town Board plans to finance the total cost of said purpose by the issuance of

serial bonds of the Town in an amount not to exceed \$400,000, hereby authorized to be issued therefor pursuant to the Local Finance Law.

SECTION 5. Current funds are not required to be provided prior to the issuance of the bonds authorized by this resolution or any notes issued in anticipation of said bonds.

SECTION 6. The proceeds of the bonds herein authorized and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds may be applied to reimburse the Town for expenditures made after the effective date of this resolution for the purpose for which said bonds are authorized. This resolution shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations.

SECTION 7. Each of the bonds authorized by this resolution and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds, shall contain the recital of validity prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law. The faith and credit of the Town are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds becoming due and payable in such year. There shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property of the Town a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due and payable.

SECTION 8. Subject to the terms and contents of this resolution and the Local Finance Law, and pursuant to the provisions of Sections 30.00, 50.00 and 56.00 to 63.00, inclusive, of said Law, the power to authorize bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance of the serial bonds authorized by this resolution and the renewals of said notes and the power to prescribe the terms, form and contents of said serial bonds and said bond anticipation notes (including without limitation the date, denominations, maturities, interest payment dates, consolidation with other issues, and redemption rights), the power to determine to issue said bonds providing for substantially level or declining debt service, and the power to sell and deliver said serial bonds (including statutory installment bonds), and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds, is hereby delegated to the Town Supervisor, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the Town. The Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to sign any serial bonds issued pursuant to this resolution and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the issuance of said serial bonds, and the Town Clerk is hereby authorized to affix the corporate seal of the Town to any of said serial bonds or any bond anticipation notes and to attest such seal.

SECTION 9. The Town Supervisor is further authorized to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary to ensure the continued status of the interest on the bonds authorized by this resolution, and any notes issued in anticipation thereof, as excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") and to designate the bonds authorized by this resolution and any notes issued in anticipation thereof as "qualified tax-exempt bonds" for purposes of Section 265(b)(3)(B)(i) of the Code.

SECTION 10. The validity of said serial bonds or of any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said serial bonds may be contested only if:

- (1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the Town is not authorized to expend money; or

- (2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of the publication of this resolution are not substantially complied with; and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication; or
- (3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution of New York.

SECTION 11. The Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish this resolution, or a summary thereof, together with a notice in substantially the form provided by Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law, in the Register Star and The Columbia Paper, being newspapers having a general circulation in the Town and hereby designated as the official newspaper of the Town for such publication.

SECTION 12. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The culvert study needs to be resized for runoff or aquatic pass ability. Mr. MacArthur will look at this with the help of Jamie Purinton. The town will be looking for grants.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Miller and moved for adoption. Resolution carried.

Resolution #14 of 2015 County inter-municipal highway agreement:

Resolved that the Ancram Town Supervisor is authorized to sign an inter-municipal agreement with the County of Columbia, the City of Hudson and the Towns and Villages of the County of Columbia to provide and to receive highway and related services to facilitate the repair and of roads and bridges and to minimize the costs of maintaining and repairing roads and bridges in the Town of Ancram and the County of Columbia

At this time, Mr. MacArthur opened a bid for trucking for the Highway Department. The bid process had been properly advertised. One bid had been submitted from FWS trucking. The bid was for \$120 an hour of \$5.18 a ton.

Mr. Terry Boyles questioned why, if the town just purchased two new trucks, did the town need trucking. Mr. MacArthur said it was only when the town was in a bind.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Clark to accept the bid. Motion carried.

Mr. MacArthur stated that the prior approved snow plow purchase was not needed now.

Mr. Thomas asked about the cost for a blower. Mr. MacArthur said he did not have the numbers yet.

Mr. Thomas asked about the price paid for diesel and why it fluctuates. Mr. MacArthur said that the price goes by the rack amount.

Mr. Thomas asked if there was any equipment not needed at this time. Mr. MacArthur said there was not.

Mr. Boyles asked if the two trucks that the town is selling will be disposed of through sealed bid. Mr. MacArthur said that he usually puts them on an auction site. Mr. Boyles stated that he thought that municipal equipment had to be sealed bids. Mr. Bassin will look into this.

Town Clerk

The town clerk gave a tax collection report. She said that notice came that the Subdivision Law had been officially filed with the state. She said the urinal in the men's room is broken and waiting for a part. Also, the Central Hudson bill for the Town Hall seemed high this month and she is going to investigate it.

Planning Board

The planning board has attended training.

CAC

The CAC announced that the EMC award applications are out for May 21st and asked for people to make nominations.

Assessor

The assessor office will send out the changes and property cards for 2015.

Pool Committee

The pool committee gave the following report to the town board:

It all started about 61 years ago:

- April 29, 1954: Louis Peppe sold the land for Blass Memorial Field to Ancram for \$1.00.
- By About 1960 the idea of a Town Pool was made possible by 19 people signing a \$10,500 loan note to cover the building costs.

Edward Parsons	Sam DeWitt	Ken Hamm
Irving Earle	Edward Simons	Robert Stickle
William McHugh	Claude Loucke	Gerald Simons
Edward McHugh	Roy Boice	James MacArthur
JF Townley	Mike Porter	Clifford Boyles
William Nimmo	Bernie Parsons	Percy Dickinson
Robert Podris		

- The pool was open for the 1962 season at a cost of \$12,600. No tax levy money was used to build the pool.

Why are we talking about the pool now?

- The pool costs money to run. The **2015 Budget allocates \$29,000 to pool operations...** \$15,000 for lifeguards and \$14,000 for supplies/maintenance.
- At 53 years...the pool is showing its age. Minor repairs required every year just to open. This year's minimum will involve bringing the gate into compliance. Almost all the pool facilities...

*Bath house	*Pump & filters
*Mechanicals/Equipment shed	*Pool interior surface

*Pool Decking

*Fencing and gate

are nearing the end of their useful lives.

- The pool is a central feature of the Ancram Kids Camp. Campers represent the major portion of pool use.
- We have time to gather information and community input on the longer term future of the pool. The critical moment of truth...to close or rebuild...is still 4-6 years away.

Pool usage has remained steady over the last three years. Sixty-five day seasons accommodate about 750 swimmers (total uses). Camp days have an average of 30 swimmers while non-camp days average 8.

- We have detailed statistics for 2011-2014. Kids Camp has been run since 2012.
- 2011 use was significantly higher...almost 1100 uses over the season. Hillsdale children used the pool that summer.
- Prior to Kids Camps, Ancram offered Red Cross certified swim classes. Enrollment was about 30 per season and drew from Ancram and neighboring towns.
- A detailed report on usage data is attached (Exhibit A).

The broader context. The Ancram Comprehensive Plan (2010) does not tell us we should or should not have a pool. It does give us some framework for “working the problem.”

- Goal 4 addresses Community Services. There is an **emphasis on development of recreational facilities**. The pool is an existing recreational resource with fairly low operational and financial thresholds to remain in the Town’s “recreational inventory.”
- Goal 3b addresses “preserving” town history. While the pool may not be hundreds of years old and George Washington did not swim there, **the unique circumstances of its existence gives the Blass Pool special status and consideration in the lore of the Town**. A review of news articles and a lengthy interview with the Town historian support this belief.
- These points are not offered as argument for or against but rather as reasons why the future of the pool deserves thought and planning.

The task before the Pool Committee is to develop cost and feasibility parameters that can allow the Board to compare and contrast the basic alternatives of refurbishing the current site versus building a new site at Town Hall. This is a fairly straight forward challenge.

The companion discussion of whether or not the Town should continue to support a pool is a much more difficult nut to crack. We will touch on this at the end of this report.

The Pool Committee retained the architect Joe Iuviene to provide technical support for our inquiry. See his report (Exhibit B).

Existing Pool Site Findings:

- The facility was built in the early 1960's and has historical significance.
- There is no significant expansion space available.
- The site has some erosion on the west side and the site fence is in need of replacement.
- The existing pool structure is adequate and does not show signs of structural deterioration. The finishes of the pool surfaces are in need of refurbishing.
- The pool fence is in need of replacement and a Code compliant gate and latch are required.
- The paving surrounding the pool is in poor condition and does not pitch away from the pool.
- The opening into the pool enclosure is direct and not in conformance with the current Health Code which requires entry through a toilet and showering facility.
- The bathhouse is in poor condition, including the foundation.
- The pool equipment building is in poor condition, including the foundation.
- The septic system was recently upgraded and is in compliance.
- Per Code the pool has a capacity of 71 swimmers.
- The maximum capacity of the whole site is 146 people.
- Annual operations expense is \$29,000, split about evenly between lifeguards and materials/maintenance.
- The pool requires several days of refurbishing before each season: Debris removal; scrape and repaint. This work is performed by the lifeguards.
- Schematic of the current pool area is attached (Exhibit C).
- Current usage is 30 swimmers on camp days and 8 on non-camp days.
- The 65 day season consists of 11 camp days and 55 non-camp days.

Investing in the current pool site. Here are two options with very rough costs:

- **Option 1:** Replace all fencing and the gate. Replace the "decking" around the pool. This costs about \$40,000, has a fairly low disruption level. If we decide at a later date to embark on a full upgrade, much of this work will have to be undone.
- **Option 2:** Build a new structure that houses the equipment, the changing/bath rooms and a small pavilion/sitting area. Create an open area at the mill end for adults. Bring the Town into full compliance with building and health codes. Resurface/reinforce existing pool structure. Replace all fencing and decking. This option could cost about \$250,000, per Joe Iuviene. See schematic (Exhibit D).

*New fence, gate, decking, site infrastructure	\$40,000
*Full resurface/refurbish of the existing pool structure; new pumps/filters	60,000
*New building about 40x60: Equipment room for pumps, etc., changing/bathrooms, pavilion sitting area	<u>150,000</u>
**Total	<u>\$250,000</u>

Town Hall site findings.

- The area is low lying and will need significant fill and drainage to avoid hydrostatic pressure problems on the pool walls and bottom.
- There is space on the south side of the building for the pool, bathhouse, pool equipment and pavilion, but it is limited and constrained. (see schematic)

- There are two propane tanks on the south side, as well as compressors for the air conditioning system at the Town Hall.
- The space is constrained by the existing playground, septic system and wetland buffer and will require the expansion of the parking area, etc.
- As a new facility, the pool (and required support facilities) will have to be fully compliant with all building and health codes.
- The cost for a new pool and required support facilities will be very significant.
- The Town Hall site will be a major construction zone for some time.

Development of the Town Hall site does not have many options for phasing. See schematic for a site layout (Exhibit E). Once we build the pool (which has to be handicap accessible) we have to build the changing/bath room structure, an equipment/mechanicals structure, fence, deck, septic system and handicap accessible path from the parking area. We will also have to demolish, remove and remediate the current site.

This is an expensive option for the pool and will require extensive planning...financial and operational...to move forward. A very rough cost estimate per Joe Iuviene is \$850,000 and breaks out like this:

*Drainage and site remediation	\$100,000
*Fence, deck and pool	325,000
*Support building (toilets, showers, pavilion, changing rooms, mechanical room)	175,000
*Septic system	45,000
*Paving and walkways/lighting	75,000
*Demo and remediation of old site	25,000
*Contingency/other	<u>105,000</u>
**Total	<u>\$850,000</u>

Please note that the rough estimates for the Town Hall and Blass and just that. They are based on Joe Iuviene's experience, which includes the current rebuild of Chatham's recreation and pool facilities.

Recommendation:

The issue before us is to continue with the Town Pool at the Blass Field site with ongoing refurbishing...
OR

Construct a new pool at the Town Hall site.

The Pool Committee and the FAC recommend that the Town maintain the pool at the current Blass Field site.

- **The economics are overwhelmingly ...\$600,000...against a Town Hall site. \$850,000 versus \$250,000.**
- At current usage rates, it is not clear any additional investment makes sense.

This brings us face-to-face with the hard decision of whether or not to support a town pool...period. A complete and searching enquiry into the desire by full and part-time residents to use and pay for a town pool can light the way to a good decision.

- Form a committee with broad representation.
- Communicate the issues via Ancram email, Ancram Newsletter and meetings with our churches, the fire department, etc.
- Run "comp plan" style workshops.

- Embark on some early fundraising.
- Send out a questionnaire.
- Seek one-on-one discussion/input.

In the meantime...

This summer the pool will open with usual compliment of new paint, patches and minor fixes. Camp, lessons and free swim will be available.

We will spend the next 6-7 months, leading up to the budget cycle, collecting enough information to support the Town Board’s discussion and decision of whether or not to support a pool.

Note. Our committees agree that any additional investment will require a significant increase in the use. Last summer 600 of the 750 uses occurred in just 11 days. Twelve days had no uses at all.

A Board decision to support the pool will start a planning and fund-raising process that would lead to a 2016 or 2017 renovation project.

David Boice said that the town has to find a way to encourage people to come to town. Donna Hoyt asked about coming up with senior usages for the pool.

Mr. Boice invited the town board to the April 18th Ancram Fire Department banquet. Mr. Boice also asked if the town could put the ball field back in on Blass Park. The fire department would like to start a softball team. A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to allow the expenditure of \$2,500 to fix the ball park on Blass Field. Motion carried.

Unsafe Buildings Law

The Town Board authorized the law to have one more legal review and to make small changes. The Board will look at this again next month.

Sewer Study

The sewer study will be looked at next month.

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

Resolution #15 of 2015 Charter Cable Franchise Agreement Renewal: Consent to Assignment - Charter Communications Entertainment I, LLC Franchise Renewal Agreement

At the regular Town Board meeting of the Town of Ancram Town Board, held at the Ancram Town Hall, Ancram, NY duly called and held on the 19th day of March, 2015 at 7 pm, the following Resolution was proposed by _____ and seconded by _____ :

WHEREAS, Charter Communications Entertainment 1, LLC ("Franchisee") is the duly authorized holder of a franchise, as amended to date (the "Franchise"), authorizing Franchisee to serve the Town of Ancram, NY (the "Franchise Authority") and to operate and maintain a cable television system therein; and

WHEREAS, Charter Communications, Inc. ("Charter") is the ultimate parent company of

Franchisee; and

WHEREAS, on April 25, 2014, Charter and Comcast Corporation ("Comcast") entered into the Comcast-Charter Transactions Agreement (the "Agreement"), pursuant to which the Franchisee, through a restructuring under Charter's ownership, will become CCO Transfers, LLC ("New Franchisee") and immediately thereafter will become a wholly owned subsidiary of Comcast (the "Transaction"); and

WHEREAS, Franchisee has filed an FCC Form 394 with the Franchise Authority with respect thereto; and

WHEREAS, the Franchise Authority has considered and approves of the Transaction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANCHISE AUTHORITY AS FOLLOWS:

1. The foregoing recitals are approved and incorporated herein by reference.
2. The franchise Authority consents to the Transaction.
3. The Franchise Authority confirms that the Franchise is valid and outstanding and in full force and effect and there are no defaults under the Franchise. Subject to compliance with the terms of this Resolution, all action necessary to approve the pro forma assignment of the Franchisee and change of control of the New Franchisee to Comcast has been duly and validly taken.
4. Comcast or New Franchisee may (a) assign or transfer its assets, including the Franchise, provided that such assignment or transfer is to an entity directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with Comcast; (b) restructure debt or change the ownership interests among existing equity participants in Comcast; (c) pledge or grant a security interest to any lender(s) of Comcast's assets, including, but not limited to, the Franchise, or of interest in Comcast, for purposes of securing any indebtedness; and (d) sell equity interests in Comcast or any of Comcast's affiliates.
5. Upon closing of the Transaction, New Franchisee shall remain bound by the lawful terms and conditions of the Franchise.
6. This Resolution shall be deemed effective upon adoption.
7. This Resolution shall have the force of a continuing agreement with New Franchisee, and the Franchise Authority shall not amend or otherwise alter this Resolution without the consent of New Franchisee and Comcast.

Upon the question of the foregoing Resolution, the following Town Board Members voted "Aye" by roll call vote

The Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Town Board, the said resolution was duly adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Ancram.

Employee Handbook

A motion was made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman Miller to approve the changes to the town employee handbook. Motion carried.

Kid's Camp

The committee will be interviewing Samantha Mason for the Camp director position.

The following resolution was offered by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Clark and moved for adoption. Motion carried.

Resolution #16 of 2015: Appoint employee relations attorney:

Whereas the town of Ancram from time to time requires advice related to employment law, and whereas employment law is a specialized area, and whereas Elena Defio-Kean has been providing employment legal advice to the Town of Ancram, and whereas Ms. Defio-Kean has left the left the firm Towne, Ryan & Partners of Albany NY, P.C., therefore it is resolved that the Town Supervisor of the Town of Ancram is authorized to enter into an agreement to retain Ms. Defio-Kean to continue to provide employment law advice to the Town of Ancram.

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

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica R. B. Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk