

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
March 20, 2008
Regular Meeting**

Present: Supervisor Thomas Dias Councilman James Bryant
 Councilman Robert Podris Councilman Gerald Roberts
 Councilman John MacArthur Town Clerk Monica Cleveland

Others: Linda Dias, Keith Bendis, Gene Morey, Bill Morey, Goerge Wittliner Sr., Anne Rothvoss, Hank Rothvoss, Eric Wiener, Lorraine Wiener, Dorothy Houle, Elizabeth Hamilton, Susan Fireman, Nancy Bryant, Charlelene Peck, Donald Peck, Carol Bryant, Joan Roberts, Casey Miller, Betsy Boyles, Perry Miller, Bill Grossi, Linda Chamberlain, Annie Walyns-Jones, Murdoch Corrison, Jim Stickle

Supervisor Dias called the regular meeting to order .

A motion was made by Councilman Podris and seconded by Councilman Roberts to accept the February 14, 2008 and February 28, 2008 minutes with an amendment to the February 14, 2008 minutes to read as follows; When asked if the proposed new Ford Pickup Truck could be bought on state bid, Highway Superintendent James MacArthur stated that Ford would not handle a State Bid. Motion carried.

Supervisor Dias read the following Financial Report:

Total amount in the Town of Ancram account \$760,105.03

A transfer was requested from account 9710.7 to 9710.6 in the amount of \$12,000.00 to cover the mortgage payment on the Town Hall Building. A motion was made by Councilman Podris to accept the financial report with the amended transfer. Motion seconded by Councilman MacArthur. Motion carried.

Correspondence

1. Mr. Charles Schumer: Accepting applications for funding under the Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program.
2. Mr. Schumer- Letter about the save Americas Treasures Grant Program.
3. Report from ZEO John Florio
4. Joan Dupont- Letter explaining the procedure to change town speed limits. Councilman Roberts explained that the procedure had changed so the towns would have to pay for the engineer study for a speed limit change. This has now been changed again to allow for the State to pay for the study.

Old Business

Cell Tower Committee: Mr. Kluge gave an update on the cell tower committee. He stated that the committee viewed three possible sites. The best would be behind the Town Hall Building. The Representative from the tower company contacted the cell

phone companies and none of them will come to the area because there is not enough population. The new idea is to join other neighboring towns and put up a central tower. Mr. Dias stated that he may contact the county to bring the towns together. Councilman Roberts informed the town that he recently purchased a "Jitterbug" phone and that it works off a satellite and has good signal.

Noise Ordinance: Supervisor Dias stated that the board has not had a chance to look at the ordinance but once they do and redraft it, another public hearing will be held.

Highway Garage: Councilman MacArthur stated that the committee has had two meetings. He stated that land abutting the current property could be donated to expand and/or build a new building. The committee will be meeting with Bob Mathews of Roche Lane on Saturday at 10am to look at his property. Mr. MacArthur stated that they may have to leave Ancramdale because of the wetlands. The building will have to be 150 feet from a water source and 100 feet from wetlands. They will have their recommendation soon. He stated that just the building that the Town of Northeast built was two million dollars. The property on Roche Lane would be \$750,000.00 and include the land and building.

Highway Equipment: Town Clerk Monica Cleveland read the Public Notice seeking bids for Calcium Chloride and a 2008 year ¾ ton pick up truck. One Bid was received for the Calcium Chloride from James Reed Sales Inc. It read as follows: Winter Calcium, .98 Per Gallon Delivered, Summer Calcium, .98 Per Gallon Delivered and Applied.

The Following Bid was given for the Pickup Truck:

Councilman Roberts stated that the economy was down and that the town's revenues may have been calculated short this year. The mortgage tax check was smaller than anticipated and that the status of the sales tax is not know. He is concerned with making such a large purchase at this time without knowing the revenues. He spoke to Mr. McLean of McLean Ford and was told that the question of accepting state bids is left to the dealer. Mr. McLean stated that he would sell on State Bid. As for getting parts, Mr. McLean will set up a billing system with the town. He suggested looking for a bid from Ford.

Councilman MacArthur asked why Ford had not put in a bid? It was advertised and GMC was the only company who bid. Councilman Roberts stated that it was advertised in the Independent and they may have not seen the add.

Supervisor Dias stated that he would like to act on the bid. Councilman Roberts stated that this was not wise without looking at the financial standings at this time. He feels the board is spending money that they may not have.

Councilman Podris stated that he would like to see two bids to compare them. Attorney Jason Shaw stated that the Independent, the official publication of the Town of Ancram, does not have a large circulation.

Councilman MacArthur stated that Millerton is out of the county and that the bid should be kept local.

Councilman Podris made a motion seconded by Supervisor Dias to pass the following resolution:

Resolution #10 of 2008: Purchase of Highway Pickup Truck

RESOLVED: That the Town Board of the Town of Ancram does hereby authorize the Town of Ancram Highway Superintendent to purchase 2008 ¾ ton GMC Pickup Truck from Ruge's GMC in Copake.

In Favor: Councilman Podris, Councilman MacArthur, Supervisor Dias. Against: Councilman Roberts. Motion carried.

Assessment Review Board: Supervisor Dias stated that Mr. Chris Thomas has agreed to accept the vacant seat on the Board of Assessment review.

Hall Hill Road: Supervisor Dias stated that the County Lawyers are drawing up contracts to rent to own the portable bridge. Keller Construction will install it. Mr. Saland is looking into getting money to help the county with this.

Privilege of the Floor

Mr. Grassi asked if there is a replacement plan for highway equipment. He stated that if the equipment was fine in October when the budget was drawn up it should be fine now. Councilman Roberts stated that a plan was drawn up. Mr. Dias stated that he did not have the plan with him. Councilman Podris stated that there was money set aside each year for equipment in the Capital fund. Councilman Roberts stated that the capital accounts had little money in them and that a transfer would need to be made for the money just spent.

Mrs. Morey stated that with the bridge on Hall Hill out, the traffic is reverted to Poole Hill Road and that the road was not made for that amount of traffic. Mr. Dias stated that the bridge should be in place in four weeks. Mr. Morey asked if a weight and speed limit should be put on Hall Hill. Councilman Bryant stated that the board would have to pass a resolution.

Resolution #11 of 2008: Speed Study

RESOLVED: That the Town Board of the Town of Ancram does hereby resolve to do a speed study on Hall Hill road, the current speed being 55 mph. Motion made by Councilman MasArthur and amended to also read Sawchuck Road. Seconded by Councilman Podris. Motion carried.

Nancry Bryant asked if the Highway Garage was put on Roche Lane would the access road be upgraded or would another road be built? Also she asked if a study would be done of the dump that was located on the property. Councilman MacArthur stated that the road will be upgraded. He stated that the town owns to Stickle's property. Mr. Rothvoss stated that there is a private road on the backside of the property. He asked if there was a well? Perry Miller stated that there was a well and septic.

New Business

Ancram Mill: Mr. Gary Kennedy from the Ancram Paper Mill addressed the board. He stated that the Mill would like to expand their business to put in a pulping mill. They would like to purchase the ball field. The mill will commission an engineer to look at the site. He asks that the town give consideration to the project. Supervisor Dias asked that a committee be formed to look into this. Councilman Roberts asked how the Comprehensive Plan fits into this. Mr. Kennedy stated that he has spoken to Mr. Bassin and he has toured the mill. Councilman Roberts and Councilman Podris agreed to look into this matter. Mr. Dias asked for a timeline at the next meeting.

Hall Hill Washout: The Highway Department is working with Morris associates. FEMA has informed the town that \$44,000.00 is all the town is going to receive for the project. Mr. Dias spoke with Gillibrand's office. Another option is to purchase a small amount of land from Mr. Sigler and move the road. Mr. Dias suggested speaking more with Mr. Sigler. Mr. Dias asked Councilman Podris and Councilman MacArthur to form a committee on the subject. They agreed.

APG: Mr. Kit White of the APG stated that the APG is a non for profit group that's sole purpose is to preserve historical buildings. They would like to see the core of Ancram look better but to do this there is a need to be in partnership with the town. They are looking at Mr. John Steely's house at this time. The house is the oldest in Ancram dating back to the 1730's They would also like to fix the old tinsmith house. The group feels that these two structures act as gateposts to the town. In order to fund these projects, the group needs to sell the Simon's store. At this time this cannot be done due to an inadequate leach field for the septic. They would like the town to possibly think about allowing a leach field to be installed on the bank of the ball field. Councilman MacArthur stated that the town has no authorization over the septic, the county does. Mr. Perry Miller stated that the Post Office has a different alternative to the septic system. Mr. White stated that the Post Office did not serve food. Supervisor Dias asked for comments from the board. There was none.

Second Privilege of the Floor

Mr. Hoyt stated that if the ball field was being sold to the mill it cannot be used as a leach field. Jean Lilley stated that if the land was to be sold she feels that the town needs to make sure there is an area for the children.

Mr. Evers stated that he felt that if there was another flooding, Hall Hill Road would wash away more and that moving the road would not help the situation.

Lynn Miller asked that if the Town Highway Garage was to move to the property on Roche Lane would the road then become Town Highway. Mr. Dias invited her to the next Highway Garage meeting and stated that at this time he could not answer that question.

Mr. Henry Rothvoss addressed that board concerning the property owned by Floods Sanitation on Sawchuck Road. He stated that they are dumping raw sewage on the property. They do have a DEC permit but are in the process of renewal. Mr. Dias stated that he had spoken to Mr. Brinkerhoff of the DEC and that he stated that they do have a permit and that it was stated that if they are dumping regulations state that it needs to be tilled under. The application for a new permit is being reviewed at this time and the site will be inspected in the next several days. The town is working with the DEC. Mr. Rothvoss stated that this (dumping) would have never taken place without the town's permission. He asked that the town send a letter to the DEC asking that another application not be allowed before the Town of Ancram has the time to investigate the situation. Mr. Dias suggested the approach that the town takes be that if the DEC sees an irregularity they hold the permit. Donna Hoyt stated that this is a major environmental impact and that they have been dumping for over 30 years. Councilman Roberts stated that this has come up in the past and he remembers Gerry Simmons stating that it is permitted because it is tilled. Councilman Podris stated that the DEC in the past stated that they had full control, the Town had none. Mr. Rothvoss stated that the Columbia County Board of Health said it was a DEC issue. Mr. Mayhew suggested putting this in the paper. Mr. Dias stated that legally that cannot happen because it is an allegation. Anyone though can write a letter to the paper.

A motion was made by Councilman Roberts and seconded by Councilman Podris to pay the bills.

Supervisor Dias made a motion to adjourn into executive to discuss Assessors department issues. Motion seconded by Councilman MacArthur. Carried.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Councilman Podris and seconded by Councilman Roberts to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by ,

Monica Cleveland
Town Clerk