

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Public Hearing/ 2013 Budget
September 20, 2012**

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

The Public Hearing for the 2013 Town of Ancram Budget was called to order by Supervisor Bassin at 6:30pm. Mr. Bassin noted that the meeting had been duly noticed in the town's official papers.

Mr. Bassin opened the floor up for comment.

Mrs. Donna Hoyt asked the budgeted amount for 2013 consulting fees. Mr. Bassin stated that there is \$10,000.00 budgeted for consulting and for John Lyons.

Mrs. Hoyt questioned the contingent amount. Mr. Bassin stated that the board would need to decide if they wanted to pay one loan payment on the garage in 2013 and put the remainder in the contingency or if they would like to pay a double payment. Mr. Bassin stated that no money had been put in the budget for major equipment.

Mr. Emil Racent raised the question of where the money returned to the town for the highway garage siding shrinkage would be put. Mr. Bassin stated that the settlement amount would be roughly \$26,000. Mr. Racent stated that the taxes should be lowered by this much.

Councilman Thomas stated that he felt the board should be lowering the taxes. He feels that the town has done much in the past years and that the town needs to give back to the tax payers. Mr. Bob Wilcox felt that the amount given back would have to be done on a valuation scale according to the property size. The smaller property owners would get a very small portion. He felt that it may be better for the town to keep it as a cushion.

Donna Hoyt asked how much was in the savings account. Mr. Bassin answered that there should be approximately \$575,000.00 by the end of 2012. Councilman Thomas asked how much this number increases each year. Mr. Bassin said about \$50,000.00.

Mr. Bassin asked the board members their feelings on giving lowering taxes. Councilman Miller felt the town should lower taxes. Councilwoman Israel felt it should be done but would like to see the smaller homeowners get a significant amount.

Councilman Clark asked about the increase in the library line by \$1,500.00 and the rescue squad. Mr. Bassin stated that during his one-on-one discussions with the board about the budget, he felt that he had the sense of the board supporting the increase to the library. Mr. Bassin stated that the rescue squad is increasing 2%. Councilwoman Israel stated that in regards to the library, Ancram pays a very small fraction of the operating costs. 500 people in Ancram have library cards and that many use the library that could not pay to donate to them. Mr. Racenet stated that the library had built a large building and the town had no say in this. Mr. Mike Citrin stated that the capital had been raised through donations. The town's money was for operating costs.

Mr. Wilcox stated that in regards to the Court offices, that he would reject a raise, but that he would like to see the clerk's salary to stay in line with the other clerks in the other departments.

Mr. Bassin stated that the board needed to think about raises. Some offices had had no raises in five years. Mr. Thomas stated that there should be no raises for the town board members. The entire board felt that staff raises were warranted.

Mr. Bassin stated that in regards to the Highway Budget, Superintendent MacArthur will pave about 10 miles of road over the next three years, and has budgeted to do that. The board thanked Mr. MacArthur for bringing the roads to the standards they are at now.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Monica Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk