

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
September 18, 2014
Public Hearing 2015 Tentative Budget**

Present:	Supervisor Arthur Bassin	Councilman James Miller
	Councilman Chris Thomas	Councilman Hugh Clark
	Councilwoman Madeline Israel	Deputy Clerk Ruth Wittlinger

Supervisor Arthur Bassin called the public hearing to order at 6:30 pm and announced that the meeting had been properly noticed in the town's official papers.

Mr. Bassin stated that the Town Law requires three phases. 1. Tentative budget 2. Preliminary Budget and 3. the Final Adopted budget. The practice of the Ancram Town Board is to hold public hearings on each of these budgets.

Mr. Bassin stated that the 2015 taxes have remained flat. The contingency budget is increased as the board has paid off the Highway Bond. The extra money from this will increase the contingency. Income includes the sales tax, mortgage tax and state aid.

Mrs. Donna Hoyt stated that the equalization rate is over 100%. She asked if there was a revaluation, how that would affect the budget. Mr. Bassin stated that it wouldn't impact spending or the budget, but a revaluation could redistribute taxes and affect the tax rate. Mr. Bassin said that the assessor is inviting the County to look at the various categories of properties in Ancram, and based on market value trends by property type to work with our assessor to review assessments and revise values by property class if appropriate. This would affect the assessed values for 2015.

Mr. Jack Seiber asked if the town sees any needs for capital improvements. Mr. Bassin stated that the Highway department has been purchasing newer used vehicles.

Mr. Bassin said that some adjustments may be made to the line items due to Health Insurance premiums and NYS retirement contributions. The board will look at this closer in October.

Councilman Clark thanked the FAC committee who meet once a month to delve into all facets of the town's finances.

Donna Hoyt asked if the town would be spending any money on the center of town as another bus got hung up on the corner. Mr. Bassin said that he has spoken to the county and state about cutting back the curbs but there is no thought about buying buildings. Mr. Bassin stated that the house on the corner should be no more than \$15,000. Councilman Miller asked if the APG would be concerned with removing a building. Councilwoman Israel stated that removing it may be in the best interest of the town. Councilman Clark agreed with looking into cutting back the curb for safety but not to accommodate the buses and trucks.

Councilman Miller made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Israel to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ruth Wittlinger
Deputy Town Clerk