

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Public Hearing Preliminary Budget
October 16, 2014**

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

The public hearing on the Preliminary 2015 Budget was called to order by Supervisor Arthur Bassin at 6:45 pm. Mr. Bassin stated that the meeting had been properly advertised.

Mr. Bassin at this time opened the floor to comments.

A representative from the Register star asked if there were any changes to the budget in comparison to 2014. Mr. Bassin stated that the taxes will remain flat to 2014. The Town Board had authorized the pre-payment of the Town Garage loan in full which frees up \$48,000 in the budget. The contingency will increase by this amount.

Mr. Bassin listed the following issues for the Town Board to think about.

- They board has not allocated any money for an outside audit. Mr. Bassin has looked into costs for this item and finds it could cost upwards of \$15,000. He stated that the FAC feels the town does not need to spend money on this in the 2015 year.
- Does the town board wish to have a dog census in 2015. The animal control officer Wes Powell quoted a fee of \$1850 to do this task.
- Mr. Bassin would like the town board to think about a multi year program for the town pool updates including the bathrooms, the decking and fencing. This would be a \$20,000 to \$30,000 per year item for up to three years.
- The town board should keep in mind the situation with the NYS retirement system.
- The board will be looking at alternatives for the retirees insurance and the fact that the employee insurance will be increasing by 3 to 5% in the next year.

Mr. Bassin stated that at the end of 2014 there will be \$99,500 in the contingent account.

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica Cleveland, Ancram Town Clerk