

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Special Town Board Meeting
November 11, 2014**

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

The Special Town Board Meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by Supervisor Bassin with a salute to the flag.

Mr. Bassin stated that there was only one item on the agenda to discuss and that was the 2015 budget.

Mr. Bassin stated that the library contribution in the proposed budget is set at \$5,000.00.

Mr. Bassin stated that there is a \$100 a month for the Deputy Highway Superintendent in the budget.

Mr. Bassin stated that he had maybe misunderstood Mr. MacArthur on this subject as Mr. MacArthur would like to pay the \$100 a month for the remainder of the time he is Highway Superintendent to the deputy. Mr. Bassin had thought it was for only the four months that he is out on sick leave.

Councilwoman Israel asked why the change when this position has never been paid before. Mrs. Citrin asked if it would only be paid when Mr. MacArthur is not working. Taffy Annis stated that last year she had been told that the town did not need the deputy and that when she was in that office, she was not paid.

Mr. Bassin said that the way it is written, if the Superintendent does not want a deputy, the Town Board does have the authority to appoint one. The Superintendent can appoint a deputy and ask for them to be paid for the office. Mr. MacArthur wished for the deputy to be paid \$100 a month.

Mr. Clark asked what the different duties that the deputy would have and once Mr. MacArthur returns, what will be done in addition to the regular job. Mrs. Annis stated that the deputy is always in contact with the superintendent at all times. She wondered why a deputy would be needed when Mr. MacArthur can be in contact by phone.

It was agreed that the town board will ask Mr. MacArthur for a job description and will question him further on this subject.

Mr. Leonard Annis asked if the person was qualified to take over for Mr. MacArthur and stated that Mrs. Annis resigned because she was not compensated for the position.

Mr. Bassin has included funds for an outside audit. He as contacted a Ray Preusser, but has not heard back from him.

The contingent account at this time has \$82,000 in it. The proposed 2015 tax levy is \$799,550, \$220 less than 2014.

All of the town board members felt comfortable with the budget.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Miller to approve the following resolution which was passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #19 of 2014: 2015 Budget Adoption Resolution - Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board approves the adoption of the 2015 Town of Ancram Budget with a budgeted tax levy of \$799,550 and a budget for the Ancram Lighting district of \$5500, and it is further resolved that the Ancram Town Supervisor is authorized to file the adopted 2015 Budget with the County of Columbia.

Mr. Bassin spoke about the following other issues.

Mr. Steven Williams asked for millage to be paid for his trips to serve on the Traffic Safety Board.

A question has been raised about documenting the Town's past practice of providing health insurance benefits for retiree widows. This is not mentioned in the employee manual, but has been done in the past. There are 2 retiree spouses who would qualify for this benefit. Employees retiring after January 1, 2011 and their spouses do not qualify for continuing health insurance benefits. Mr. Bassin recommended that the employee handbook be modified to reflect providing health insurance benefits for widows of retirees who retired prior to January 1, 2011. The Town Board agreed to this change.

Mr. Bassin asked that any other comments about the manual updates be brought to his attention, as well as changes to the Organizational resolutions.

Mr. Clark handed out to the Town Board the final zoning law draft, noting that there were only cosmetic changes. A motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Supervisor Bassin to accept the zoning draft as received. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk