

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Budget Workshop
September 28, 2009**

Present:	Supervisor Thomas Dias	Councilman James Miller
	Councilman Robert Mayhew	Councilwoman Donna Hoyt
	Councilman John MacArthur	Town Clerk Monica Cleveland

Supervisor Thomas Dias called the meeting to order.

Supervisor Dias stated that he had highlighted in the proposed budget changes that he thought needed to be changed. He stated that there was an increase of 2.13% from 2009's budget.

In the revenues section Mr. Mayhew stated that the proposed amount was too high. Mr. Dias suggested putting \$200.00 in the proposed revenues for zoning. Mr. Mayhew suggested that the board speak to the planning and zoning boards and find out if there are any upcoming projects which may produce revenue.

Mrs. Hoyt stated that she thought that the line A2770, revenues from the cable company, should be left blank due to their current status of bankruptcy. Mr. MacArthur stated that the board had received \$4856.00 this year. The board decided to leave the line at 0.

Mr. Miller questioned the tobacco money. Mr. Dias stated that this was a set amount each year.

Mr. Dias pointed out the dog fees, 1550 and suggested \$500.00 in revenues for this line. The board decided on \$200.00 in the zoning revenue and \$1,000.00 in the planning revenue.

At this time, Mr. MacArthur suggested having the board bring the accountant to the next workshop meeting.

The board felt that the interest rates were dropping fast and that they should only put \$2,000.00 in account A2401, Interest.

The board put \$300.00 in the dog license revenue line.

In building permits 2555 Mr. Dias suggested leaving this at \$3,000.00. Line 2501, fee searches, was set at \$500.00.

Mr. Dias stated that he had taken the OCA grants out of the revenue section of the budget.

Mr. Mayhew asked if the \$29,500.00 mistake in the Fire District line on last years budget was to be made up this year or the next. Mr. Dias stated that this accounted for the current budget. It came out of 2009 and has to go back into 2009.

Mr. Miller spoke about the Mortgage tax revenues and asked if they should stay the same. Mr. MacArthur suggested lowering them. Mr. Mayhew stated that they should be around \$40,000.00. Mrs. Hoyt suggested \$35,000.00 Mr. Miller suggested \$30,000.00 Mr. Dias stated that he wanted to "low ball it", and suggested \$30,000.00.

1090, interest on taxes was set at \$5,000.00.

Mrs. Hoyt asked Mr. Dias about the Fire District error in the 2009 budget. She stated that this money should be taxed by the Fire District not the town. Mr. Dias stated that the bookkeeper stated that the money counts for this year. Mr. MacArthur asked where the money was going to go when it came back. Mr. Dias stated that it would go into the savings. Mr. MacArthur stated that this is then an unexpended balance for 2009. Mr. Dias stated that he has to follow what the bookkeeper says. Superintendent MacArthur stated that the money was spent in 2009.

Mrs. Hoyt suggested putting all of the health insurance in the highway budget. She questioned putting the retirement in the highway as well. Clerk Cleveland stated that she was also in the retirement program. The board decided to place \$17,000.00 in DA9010.8 and \$3,000.00 in A9010.8.

Mr. Dias stated that both insurance brokers came to the town and wanted him to sign off that they were the sole broker. They are both to give a price.

The library account was left at \$2,500.00

Account A8010.13 Mrs. Hoyt suggested was to low. Mr Miller suggested \$3,500.00.

Mr. Mayhew stated that 1620.4 was raised and he did not understand this. Mrs. Hoyt stated that the account line is already over for 2009.

Mr. Mayhew questioned the rescue squad. Mr. Dias stated that he had a call into them. He is going to meet with Linda Scheer with the representatives. He stated that what he expects is that the town will be given a number. He stated that the danger the town has is that if we do not pay this number, the squad could go under. Mr. MacArthur stated that if they do go under, the service will be picked up by someone else and the person will be billed. He stated that he felt the best thing would be if they did go out. The County will then have to go to a County wide system. Superintendent MacArthur stated that the state will bring someone in. Mr. Mayhew stated that the town will be paying the rescue squad more then the highway before to long. Mr. Dias stated that the \$125,000.00 figure is a tentative number. Mr. MacArthur stated that there are times that the fire department is called to go to the rescue squad calls and they do not get paid for their services.

Mr. Dias stated that he thought that Mr. Miller had a good point on buying highway equipment. He thought that some of the money for the equipment needed to come out of the highway budget. Mr. Dias asked Superintendent MacArthur where he could find the money in his budget. Highway Sup. MacArthur stated that the Cottontail road could be held off in being paved (3.1 miles of road). He thought that the board will have to make this decision. Mr. Mayhew stated that this would bring the highway budget over the one million mark. Highway Sup. MacArthur stated that he knows where there is a 2004 or 2005 grader to purchase but the state makes the process to purchase a used piece of equipment very hard. The wording has to be just right in the bid. Mr. Dias asked that if the Highway department could find a grader for \$120,000.00 could the Highway Department pay \$60,000.00 of the costs. Mr. Miller liked the idea of paying cash for the equipment. Mr. Dias stated that then the following year the board could look into purchasing another piece of equipment. Highway Sup. MacArthur stated that there may be more then \$65,000.00 left in unexpended. He suggested asking Betty Young about how her town, Gallatin, purchased their last piece of used equipment.

Highway Sup. MacArthur stated that he had forgot to ask the board if they had passed the resolution allowing the grant to be written for the bucket truck to be shared with Copake and the Taconic Hills School. If not, Mr. MacArthur stressed that this needed to be done at the workshop. Mr. Miller stated that the highway department had rented a truck for a week and this cost the town \$4,500.00. Last year the grant was separated and the grant only came through for the terf equipment. Highway Sup. MacArthur stated that he always utilized the Central Hudson truck but they are not allowing this anymore.

Mr. Mayhew stated that the board needed a letter of resignation from ZBA Chair Kurt Sommerhoff who has notified the town that he has to step down from his post. Mr. Dias stated that he will double check for one.

Mr. Dias called the budget workshop closed.

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk