

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin
Date: January 13, 2018
Subject: Supervisor's Report



1. Financial Report – Our year-end cash came in at \$758,000 is slightly better than our prior month estimate of \$745,000 and about \$70,000 above the YE budget for cash of about \$685,000 (after adjusting the cash budget for the truck loan prepayment of \$242,000). Our better than budgeted YE 2017 cash position results from better than budgeted 2017 sales tax and mortgage tax receipts and savings in the highway department and general fund versus budget. Later this month we expect to receive about \$70,000 in 4Q sales tax receipts, and \$16,000 from DEC as our final culvert grant reimbursement, and we expect to incur \$25,000 in costs to demolish the Houghtaling house next to the Town Garage. We expected the DEC reimbursement and demolition project to happen in 2017.

2. Veterans' Property Tax Exemptions – In 2017 the County passed two laws which increased and extended property tax exemptions for veterans, consistent with NYS law. Towns are also able to adopt these new local laws. We will be holding public hearings on 1/18 on Local Law # 1 of 2018 which increases the amount of the veterans' tax exemptions, and Local Law # 2 of 2018, which extends the property tax exemption for Cold War Veterans. Both Deputy Supervisor Hugh Clark and I will have to recuse ourselves on this matter, so I have asked Councilwoman Israel to manage the presentation, discussion and consideration of these local laws.

3. Climate Smart Community – Because our Climate Smart Community Task Force chaired by Suzan Flamm has completed four high impact climate smart actions (EVCS, energy audit, energy code training and unified solar permit) Ancram has been designated by NYSERDA as a "Climate Smart Community" and has qualified for an \$80,000 grant. We will be getting a report Thursday from the CSCTF on the status of our grant application.