

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin
Date: September 12, 2018
Subject: Supervisor's Report



1. Financial Report – Another normal financial month in August. General fund spending through YTD August was about flat to last year. Highway spending YTD through August, excluding the \$240,000 for the new grader this year and the \$327,000 in debt and interest costs last year, was about \$20,000 under last year. Cash on hand as of the end of August was \$1,011,000. YE cash projection is \$828,700, up \$6,500 from last month's YE projection of \$822,200 and \$92,700 better than the YE budgeted cash number of \$736,000. The improvement versus budget in YE cash projections is primarily caused by better than budgeted sales tax receipts (\$50,000), and a forecast for better than budgeted bank interest, and higher fees for the Court, Building Department and Highway Department coupled with a handful of lower than budgeted expense categories in the GF. About \$900,000 of our \$1,011,000 in cash on hand is on deposit with TD Bank in their liquid investment account, which currently earns 1.6% and floats with changes in interest rates.

2. Comp Plan Review Process – The Comp Plan Review Committee has met five times during the last month, and has developed a list of priority strategies and action plans to support each of the 8 goals, which you have seen. We hope to have a draft of the “revised” Comp Plan for TB review by the end of the year.

3. 2019 Tentative Budget – We will conduct a public hearing on the Tentative Budget at 6:45 on Thursday, 9/20. Following the public hearing, the Town Board will have opportunity to review and revise the Tentative Budget before we adopt it. We will have additional opportunities to modify the 2019 Budget at our October and November meetings, as we review the Preliminary and Final Budgets. I have attached a summary of the Tentative Budget, and a list of “proposed” changes to the Tentative Budget we can consider for inclusion in the Preliminary Budget.

4. NYS Property Tax Related Charitable Reserve Funds – A recent IRS ruling appears to make this program illegal.

5. Speed Limit Enforcement – We expect to get the radar speed signs by the end of the month. We will secure permission to post these signs initially on 82 and 8 coming into Ancramdale. NYS DOT does not seem enthusiastic about either lowering the speed limit on 82 into Ancramdale from 35 to 25, or installing a caution 25 mph sign in that area. We are looking into the possibility of installing a caution 25 mph sign on 8 coming into Ancram, and I have recently had a request to consider cutting the speed limit on 8a and 8 from 55 to 35. The Sheriff's department reports issuing 12 speeding tickets in August, down from 20 in July.

6. Weight Limits on 8/8a - I will again recommend we approve a resolution to retain an attorney to draft a local law to establish weight limits on 8 and 8a. If we start the local law process now, we would probably be ready to consider the local law for adoption in 90 days, following a public hearing. Because Councilman Boice will not be able to attend our 9/20 meeting, I suggest we defer this discussion and decision until October, when David will be able to participate.

7. Sawchuk Road Septage – Flood's Sanitation failed to file the necessary paperwork to continue spreading septage on Sawchuk Rd, and was supposed to have stopped spreading septage as of 9/14. The neighbors on Sawchuk Rd are in contact with DEC to see how DEC plans to enforce this situation, and what remediation efforts might have to be done.

8. Houghtaling House – We expect demolition of Houghtaling House to take place by the end of the month.