

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin
Date: 9/11/2016
Subject: Supervisor's Report – August 2016



- 1. Financial Report** – August was another “normal” financial month. Through August, 2016, our total spending in the general fund was up over the same period in 2015 about \$15,000, including \$18,000 of 2016 pool capital improvements. Highway department spending is flat this year over last, after absorbing the \$84,000 truck bond payment. We had about \$1 million of cash on hand at the end of August.
- 2. Year-end Cash Projection** – No changes. We should end the year with about \$800,000 in cash.
- 3. Pats Rd Culvert** - We have run into major installation problems here. Contractor installed footings 18” above level specified in the plans, and did not make Engineer or Town aware in a timely way. We are reviewing our options in terms of how to deal with the contractor and what to do to mitigate the visual impacts of an 18 inch elevation error. I will suggest we go into executive session about this matter, as it could end up in litigation. Given our experience with Pats Rd I think we should postpone the Hall Hill culvert until next summer, so we can more fully understand what went wrong with the Pats Rd culvert project.
- 4. Oil/Water Separator** – Still waiting for DEC permit approval. Permit should be granted this month.
- 5. Parcel adjacent to Town Garage** – This .54 acre parcel has been taken over by the County in a tax foreclosure. County has offered it to Ancram for \$2500, and the TB has approved this purchase. Still waiting for county to perfect the foreclosure and a judge to sign off on it. This all may happen by year end.
- 6. TH Wireless Smoke, Gas, Carbon Monoxide Detectors** – I am inclined to accept the \$1000 proposal for the Town Hall upgrade, but still will need to review the placement of the new sensors with A&R. Recommendation next month. Jim and I still have not had a chance to review the \$6000 proposal for the Highway Garage from Vector. We should have a recommendation next month as well.
- 7. 2017 Tentative Budget** – We will hold a public hearing on the 2017 Tentative Budget at 6.45 on Thursday 9/15. The Tentative Budget indicates a tax levy that is flat to 2016 with a \$15,000 increase in the contingent account. As we learn more about our “uncontrollable” costs (health, property and liability insurance and the state retirement fund), and work our way through a review of salaries, the numbers will move around a bit, As in the past 6 years, I think we should be targeting a final 2017 tax levy that is a percent or so under 2016. Jim Miller and I are talking about a small \$20,000 to \$30,000 cut in the highway repairs budget to reflect the \$30,000 increase in CHIPS money we will get this year and next.
- 8. BAR Appointment** – We have two people applying for the BAR. Bob Podris, a third candidate, has withdrawn. Steve Olyha and Bob Mathers will be interviewed at 6 and 6.15 pm on Thursday 9/15. Will send you brief bios on both before the interview. Interview committee will be BAR members Palmer Irving and Matthew Bernstein, and Town Board members Madeleine Israel and David Boice, with former BAR member Chris Thomas participating in the interview if he is in town.
- 9. County Issues** – 2017 County budget process has started. 2017 target is for a tax increase that is under the .68% State budget cap. CGCC was named the third best Community College in NY State, and announced an \$86 million building program.