

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin
Date: 6/14/2015
Subject: Supervisor's Report – June 2015



Town Issues

1. Financial Report – We ended May with \$1.15 million in the bank. Revenues and spending through the end of May were as expected. Excluding about \$9000 in one time grants we got last year, YTD May revenues were flat to the same period in 2014, while spending this year was about \$3000 under the same period last year. Assuming no extraordinary financial events, we are on track to come in pretty much on budget for 2015.

2. 2016 Budget - Preliminary indications are we will be able to reduce town taxes by about 1% (\$8,000) as part of the 2016 budget. We will start the formal budget process in mid-July, after we get June year to date numbers. I expect spending levels next year to be about the same in aggregate as this year. I anticipate the savings available from eliminating the deputy building inspector position (\$5300), reducing assessor clerk hours (\$4000), bringing lawn maintenance into the highway department (\$5000), maintenance and fuel saves in the highway department related to the new trucks (\$20,000) and a reduction in the contingency account will offset the cost of the loan interest & principal payment for one new plow truck (\$44,000) and any salary & benefit cost increases we are faced with.

3. Plow truck purchase - Bank of Greene County agreed to extend our 1.99% fived year loan proposal through the end of August, when we expect to take possession of the two new plow trucks. The major issue for the Town Board is to decide whether to finance both trucks and borrow about \$400,000, or to borrow for one and pay cash for the other. We currently have about \$700,000 in cash reserves. If we pay \$200,000 cash for one truck, we would end 2015 with about \$500,000 cash in the bank, and would probably end 2016 with about \$550,000 to \$575,000 in cash.

County Issues

1. Airport - County is working with an adjacent landowner to cut down two clusters of trees that are causing the FAA some concern. Other than that, we are still working with FAA on plans & grant applications to implement the 300 foot runway safety area on County owned land on the south end of the runway, to meet FAA guidelines.

2. Pine Haven – Nothing new to report. We are still working on the contract of sale.

3. CEDC - Recent events have been well covered in the papers. The major issue facing the County BOS is whether to continue funding CEDC or not. That issue will depend on the success of the CEDC board restructuring process, the resignation of several CEDC board members, and negotiating a satisfactory contract with CEDC which provides adequate governance, control and reporting processes to allow for County oversight over the use of the \$437,000 of taxpayer money the County currently provides CEDC. There is also some discussion within the CEDC about "going private" and operating without County taxpayer money. This would eliminate the County's need to oversee the CEDC.