

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin
Date: 4/17/2016
Subject: Supervisor's Report



1. Financial Report – March was another “normal” financial month. We continue to benefit from the mild weather, low fuel costs and lower repairs and maintenance costs. For the three months ending March 2016, we have spent about \$110,000 less than through March of 2015. The Highway Department accounted for \$100,000 of that year to year difference, caused by underruns in fuel, snow removal, machinery repairs and overtime. Based on the 1Q running rate, we may see full year sales tax, mortgage tax, building permit and fee/fine revenues exceed budget by about \$50,000 in aggregate. We also have identified and approved about \$150,000 of unbudgeted capital projects for 2016, including \$50,000 in highway equipment, \$25,000 for the oil/water separator, \$25,000 for the pool repairs and \$55,000 for the culvert project in-kind match. We will fund these projects with 2016 cost savings and unbudgeted revenues, and if necessary, from the Town's \$800,000 fund balance, which is our reserve account.

2. Culvert Project – We expect to receive bids for the concrete box culverts on 4/20 and will have a better idea of the costs of the project when we get the bids back. Depending on costs, we will either do two major culverts – Pats Rd and Hall Hill Rd, or one major and a few minor culverts. We expect \$220,000 of grant money from DEC and will match the \$220,000 in grant funds with Highway Department labor, equipment and materials totaling \$55,000.

3. Climate Smart Community – Climate Smart Community task force will be appointed at April TB meeting. People interested in serving on this committee should contact me or Jane Meigs, who has agreed to serve as chair of the CSC TF. We need one more TB member to serve on this TF.

4. Heritage Resources Committee – A lot going on: a) The Ancram Historic District looks like it will be approved by the State this summer, and work on the Ancramdale Historic District will begin after the Ancram approval. b) Bob Murphy has recommended that we approve the installation of a new wood fence around the cemetery. Following the fence, the plan is to repair the head stones in the cemetery. This project has been on the drawing board for a couple of years. c) Lynne Perrella reported that the next exhibit in the historic vestibule will be on veterans, and will be scheduled for a grand opening around Veterans Day in November. d) Gerry Fultz reported that Habitat is still in the process of developing a plan for the properties in the center of Ancram. We expect to have a more concrete sense of their approach in the next month or so. Gerry also reported that there has been some discussion about ways to restore the old horse shed at St John's Lutheran Church in Ancram, either in place, or at another site.

Private donations to the Heritage Resources Fund totaling \$16,000 are available to fund “heritage” projects. We will do some additional fundraising for the head stones when we are ready for that phase of the project.

5. Right to Farm law – Revised version of RTF law eliminates Town role in the dispute resolution process, and recommends use of NYS Ag & Markets mediation service. Public hearing will be scheduled prior to April TB meeting. We held a joint Ag Committee-CAC-CLC meeting on April 4 to review RTF law, and have received comments from Nan Stolzenburg, CAC, CLC and NYS Department of Ag & Markets, which we will incorporate in to the RTF law following the public hearing.

6. Highway Garage Drain – Contamination testing was done two weeks ago. Still waiting for results. We have applied for the permits to allow the installation of the oil/water separator. Waiting for approval.

7. 2016 Camp Fees - We will discuss Chris's proposal that we waive Camp fees for Ancram residents in 2016. Last year there were about \$10,000 in fees paid out of the total camp revenue of \$17,000. If we waive fees this year, we will accelerate our efforts to raise money from voluntary donations from camper families, the general public and from grants. There is also an opportunity to provide free camp lunches this summer, through a Food Bank program that Jack Lindsey and Bob Murphy are working with.