

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin
Date: February 18, 2019
Subject: Supervisor's Report



1. Financial Report – Normal month. Having collected the tax levy in January, we ended the month with about \$1.8 million in cash. We have a budgeted year end 2019 cash fund balance of about \$845,000. With about \$130,000 in the 2019 contingent account budget and \$275,000 of planned capital spending projects that were part of the tax levy budget, we should end 2019 with about \$700,000 in cash on hand. The major risk to the Town's 2019 financial situation is the financial condition of NY State, which may result in the State reducing or eliminating general and highway aid to towns.

2. OSC Audit – State auditors completed their audit and held exit interviews the first week in February. Their concerns during the exit interview focused primarily on the size and distribution of our fund balance – they would like to see us have less fund balance than the \$800,000 we target, and would like a significant portion of the fund balance allocated to specific capital reserves and to the highway department. We agreed to disagree. We should get their final written report in 2-3 months.

3. Comp Plan Review Process – The Comp Plan Review Committee held a public hearing on February 9. The Committee concluded that none of the comments that came up during the public hearing require modifications to the Draft Plan as it stands. Written and verbal comments at the public hearing focused on the issue of short term rentals. The Comp Plan Review Committee will present the Updated Comprehensive Plan to the Town Board at the 2/21 Town Board meeting. The Town Board will schedule a public hearing on the Draft Updated Comp Plan, will submit the Plan to the County Planning Board for comment and approval, and will conduct a SEQRA analysis prior to considering the Plan for adoption. Suggest we schedule the Town Board public hearing on the Comp Plan for Saturday, March 9 at 10 am.

4. Cable Franchise Application - We have received an application from Berkshire Cable dba Consolidated Communications for approval to offer cable services in Ancram under the terms offered by Spectrum Communications. We will hold a public hearing on this request immediately prior at the Mach 21 Town Board meeting and will then consider the application for approval.

5. Cemetery Fence – Bob Murphy has recommended that the Town complete the fencing around the cemetery on CR 7 neat Hall Hill Rd. Bob is getting estimates for this work, which will be paid for with money available in our Heritage Resources fund.