

# Notes from the 4/11 FAC meeting held via Zoom.

**1. Participants** - Ann Rader, Peter Scola, Jerry Vaccaro, Steve Olyha, Bob Wilcox, Marie McDermott, Steve Roberts, Will Weiss, Jim Miller, Hugh Clark, Art Bassin.

**2. Financial uncertainties** - The Committee discussed the financial uncertainties facing the town as a result of the covid-19 health crisis.

The town has \$568,000 of non-property tax revenues at risk, including \$325,000 in sales tax and \$170,000 in highway chips money, \$20,000 in interest income, \$35,000 in fees and \$18,000 in fines. Assuming we lose 40% (an arbitrary best guess estimate) of the revenues at risk, our 2020 year end cash on hand could be about \$460,000 if we do not take any corrective actions to reduce capital spending and routine expenses. If we were to borrow for the proposed plow truck purchase and cut back other regular and capital spending, our year end 2020 cash could be as high as \$814,000. Year-end 2020 cash projection attached.

**3. New Plow Truck** - The Committee concluded that buying the new plow truck for \$209,000 as planned was an essential purchase because of the age and repair costs related to the truck that will be replaced. The Committee also concluded it would be a good idea to borrow to buy the new plow truck at 1.99% for five years, which would preserve cash, and to apply for chips to help fund the truck if chips is actually available in 2020.

**4. Cost savings** - The Committee discussed possible expense savings in the highway and general funds that could total \$75,000 to \$150,000, and capital project savings which could total \$60,000. In addition, if the State does not allow camps and pools to operate in 2020 the town would save about \$70,000.

**5. Use of Camp/Pool funds** - The Committee endorsed the idea that if the State does not allow camps and pools to open this summer, the town should use the camp and pool money to provide some kind of summer experience for the kids and a summer job of some kind for camp counselors and lifeguards. Steve Olyha mentioned that Long Lake residents were always looking for people to do yard work and to weed in and around the lake.

**6. Sales Tax** - Peter Scola asked what the sales tax hit had been during the 2008-2009 financial crunch. Jim Miller thought it had been about 20%. According to Open Book NY ([www.openbooknhy.com](http://www.openbooknhy.com)) 2007 sales tax was \$270,000, 2008 was \$223,000, 2009 was \$213,000, 2010 \$218,000 and 2011 \$236,000. The 2007-2009 drop was about 20% as Jim had remembered. 1Q sales tax looks like its up 11% over 2019 due to "panic buying: and may be stronger than we expect in the 2Q due to continued "panic buying" and the increase in people in the County.

**7. Long term capital planning** - The Committee reviewed the long term capital plan which indicates no major capital spending in 2021, a \$120,000 payload in 2022 and

no major capital spending in 2023. . Jim Miller indicated he could probably postpone the payload scheduled for 2022. Bob Wilcox suggested we consider stretching out the replacement cycle for major equipment now that we have the new equipment storage shed.

**8. New Computers for town hall** - Marie McDermott asked about the new computers for Town Hall...no news on this yet from Phil DeJan who is working on a proposal. We had originally planned on desktops, but laptops may be a better solution for working at home.

**9. Mold at TH** - Marie also asked about the mold at TH that was discovered when we were replacing rotten siding on both sides of the tower entryway. We are removing and replacing the moldy wood and insulation and will hire a mold expert to check out the rest of the building.

**10. Ancram Mill** - Jim Miller reported he heard the Mill had moved one of its cigar wrapper paper machines out of Ancram to South Carolina so it could continue to produce the product.

**11. CSCTF Projects** - Town Hall interior lights have been converted to LEDs. Cost about \$6000, estimated savings about \$2650/yr. LED street lights proposal has been approved and is subject to some final tweaks with Central Hudson before we implement. Cost about \$3800, saving about \$2000/yr. Geothermal is on hold for now...Committee asked if the \$60,000 NYSERDA grant that was going to be used for geothermal could be deferred, or if we would lose it. Will find out from CSCTF.

**12. Smart TV at Town Hall** - Waiting for one more bid...bids received so far are under \$10,00.

**13. Broadband at TH** - Consolidated Communications has proposed a 100 mb broadband connection at town hall for a monthly cost of about \$460. Spectrum's proposal is about twice as expensive. Will double check with Consolidated to make sure that their proposal covers all costs.

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