

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin
Date: April 12, 2020
Subject: Supervisor's Report



1. March Financial Report – February numbers were as expected. March may be the last normal financial month for a while. Notes from the 4/11 FAC meeting and a year-end cash projection are attached as part of the background materials for the Town Board meeting and cover the financial issues we face. Preliminary indications are first quarter sales tax and the first mortgage tax check are going to be stronger than expected, but the balance of the year is not as clear.

2. COVID - 19 – No telling at this point how bad this situation can get, how long it will last or how it will impact Town or County services. If schools stay closed and do not reopen before summer, the County may close all summer camps and pools for the summer. We should anticipate this and figure out a way to employ our camp counselors and lifeguards for community projects, and how to provide activities for campers short of running a camp. Our Town Hall has been closed to the public for the past month with staff working from home as much as possible, and the Town Court has also been closed. All town staff is available by phone and email any time during the week.

3. CSCTF Initiatives –

1) **Geothermal HVAC system** at Town Hall – on hold for the moment. We are supposed to be getting an analysis from CPL Engineering on the economic and environmental costs and benefits of a geothermal system before our 4/16 meeting.

2) **Converting to LED streetlights** – We are ready to implement after working out a fee details with Central Hudson. Cost will be about \$3800, annual savings about \$2200.

3) **Converting Garage & Town Hall lights to LEDs**- These projects are done. Total cost for the new lights for Garage and Town Hall was about \$8500 with about \$6000 a year in estimated energy cost savings.

4. 2019 Audits – FAC has audited the Town Court and the Building Department. The audits of the Planning & ZBA departments, the Town Clerk/Tax Collector and the Town Supervisor have been postponed until further notice.

5. Community Cleanup Day - We had planned to hold our annual community cleanup day on May 30, but it is unlikely that will happen. We should probably plan to skip this year, and plan to do one as early next year as practical.

6. Historic Marker Grant - We have received a \$1100 grant to install a historic marker in Boston Corner at the location of the “corner” of NY, Massachusetts and Connecticut. And we have applied for historic markers for the Ancram and Ancramdale Historic Districts. John Hoffman has been managing this process.

7. New Plow Truck Loan – We ordered a new plow truck last fall to replace a 2006 truck that has incurred major repair costs in recent years. We had planned to pay cash, but given the economic uncertainties we are facing, I recommend we borrow to buy the truck. Rate is 1.99% for five years, and we can prepay the loans if things are not as bad as we expect.

8. Consolidated & Spectrum Franchise Agreements – These agreements terminate on May 15, 2020. Recommend we extend them for a year or two under existing terms and conditions. As a practical matter, we don't have the time at this point to renegotiate terms and conditions.