

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin
Date: May 15, 2020
Subject: Supervisor's Report



1. April Financial Report – April numbers were as expected. We are budgeted to end the year with cash on hand of \$680,000, but if we experience reductions in sales tax and fee revenues of 40% and do not get any CHIPS money we are likely to see a reduction in revenues of about \$300,000, leaving us about \$380,000,000 in cash at year end. To replace the expected \$300,000 revenue shortfall and position ourselves for what we expect to be another very difficult 2021 budget year, we have identified \$610,000 in opportunities to improve cashflow, if necessary, by borrowing \$209,000 to buy the new plow truck, and making cuts in the highway department and the general fund totaling about \$386,00, or about 25% of our operating expense budget. These cuts include \$70,000 in camp & pool costs, \$50,000 in other general fund costs, \$10,000 in capital projects, \$66,000 in road repair costs, \$170,000 in CHIPS spending and about \$20,000 in snow removal costs. We also anticipate mortgage tax revenue to be about \$15,000 higher than our \$25,000 budget, based on a stronger than expected last six months' experience that has already hit our 2020 budget number.

2. COVID - 19 – No telling at this point how bad this situation will get, how long it will last or how it will impact Town or County services. Schools are not reopening this year, and the County is recommending that towns do not operate camps or pools. Our Town Hall has been closed to the public for the past two months with staff working from home as much as possible, and the Town Court has also been closed. At some point the State will allow us to reopen town hall, but it's hard to predict when. All town staff is available by phone and email any time during the week.

3. CSCTF Initiatives –

1) **Geothermal HVAC system** at Town Hall - The CPL analysis suggested a town hall geothermal system would cost about \$270,000 compared to the \$116,000 proposed by Aztech. NYSERDA is reviewing the two estimates, and we expect to talk with NYSERDA next week.

2) **Converting to LED streetlights** – We talked with Central Hudson last week, and will be getting a final proposal to change all streetlights to 3000K 25 watt LEDs in the next week or two. Cost will be about \$3800, annual savings about \$2200.

4. Building Department report – Code Enforcement Officer Ed Ferratto has compiled a summary of all derelict buildings in town and plans to review his analysis with us at the 5/21 meeting.

5. Historic Marker Grant - We have received a \$2200 grant to install historic markers for the Ancram and Ancramdale historic districts. We had previously received a \$1100 grant to identify the stone marker in Boston Corner at the intersection of the NY, Massachusetts and Connecticut borders. John Hoffman has been managing this process.

6. Communications training – We will review Jamie Ehring's proposal for communications training for town boards and committees and decide on next steps.

7. BAR Appointment – Bob Mathers has resigned from the Board of Assessment Review. We will consider the appointment of Will Weiss, the BAR alternate, to replace Bob and serve out the remainder of his term. Grievance Day is May 26.