

**To: Ancram Town Board**  
**From: Art Bassin**  
**Date: October 10, 2020**  
**Subject: Supervisor's Report**



**1. Financial Report** – September numbers were as expected, and our year end cash forecast continues at about \$1.1 -1.2 million. We received \$15t,000 in CHIPS payments last week, and sales tax receipts have stabilized at about 5-6% below last year.

**2. 2021 Budget** – We will have a public hearing on the 2021 Preliminary Budget prior to the 10/15 Board Meeting. The 2021 Preliminary Budget keeps property taxes flat at \$752,000. Sales taxes are budgeted at \$300,000, down \$25,000 from this year, and our contingent accounts are at \$100,000, \$30,000 less than this year. There are no new capital spending projects proposed for the next few years, but we will have about \$70,000 available as part of the 2019 NYSERDA grant to help fund a new TH geothermal HVAC system in 2021 if we determine geothermal is feasible for Town Hall. We also will have the \$1.1 -1.2 million fund balance available if we need to make unbudgeted capital investments in 2021.

**3. Geothermal HVAC at Town Hall** – Next steps include developing an RFP to solicit geothermal bids and looking for additional grant funding to cover the out of pocket cost over a conventional propane solution. In terms of timing, we should plan to make a decision before year-end and plan to start work to replace our HVAC system with either a geothermal or conventional system next spring. I recommend that we retain CPL Engineering to work with us to develop a formal RFP for geothermal.

**4. Historic Markers** – The Ancramdale Hamlet Historic District Marker was installed at the 8/3 intersection in Ancramdale 10/3. We will need to discuss the proposed location of the Ancram Hamlet Historic District Marker when we meet on Thursday. The four possible locations are the triangle at the 82/7 intersection, at the Little Store or on CR 7 by the Freeground Cemetery by Hall Hill Rd or opposite the old town hall on CR 7.

**5. Traffic Safety** – A) Speed limits – We need to decide how we want to deal with speed limit reductions - whether we want to continue to deal with specific requests on a road by road basis, or whether we want to request speed limit reductions to 35 or 40 mph on all town roads now posted over 40 mph or not posted, and from 55 mph to 45 for all county roads in town that are currently posted at 55 mph. Key to making any decision on speed limit reductions is an understanding about whether lower speed limits actually slow people down, and whether there are any negatives to lowering speed limits. B) Radar speed signs - Permits for the two new Evolis radar signs we plan to install on 82 coming into Ancram and Ancramdale are in process with NYS DOT.

**6. Town roof** – The heavy rain last week caused a roof leak and some damage to the ceiling in the meeting room. George is arranging additional roof repairs as a short-term fix and is getting estimates for replacing the roof. If we replace the roof we will have to decide if we want to install new, higher efficiency solar panels, or just reinstall what is there. We will get a proposal on costs and benefits of new panels versus reinstalling current panels.

**7. Community Rescue Squad Budget** – The Community Rescue Squad has proposed a 5% increase for 2021 to \$106,500. We will consider this request for approval at our 10/15 meeting, along with a county chargeback agreement to pay for this for service.

**8. Town Insurance** – We will be soliciting competitive bids for town insurance this year. FAC will review bids in November and will present a recommendation to the Board in December.