

**To: Ancram Town Board**  
**From: Art Bassin**  
**Date: November 14, 2020**  
**Subject: Supervisor's Report**



**1. Financial Report** – October numbers were as expected, and our year end cash forecast continues at about \$1.1 - \$1.2 million. YTD sales tax receipts are about flat to last year, and September was about 26% over September 2019. Fall 2020 mortgage tax receipts are estimated to be about \$36,000, which will make the total 2020 mortgage tax number about \$66,000, about \$36,000 better than budget.

**2. Solar Issues** - We will hear a proposal from Solstice for the Town to participate in the Solstice solar program which will save our residents about 10% on their electric costs. This program is recommended by the CSCTF and CAC. We also will consider a resolution requested by the Town of Copake opposing the Shepherd's run solar project.

**3. Local Law #2 of 2020 (Zoning Amendments)** – We will consider Local Law #2 of 2020 for adoption. The only change in the proposed local law from the previous draft is a recommended reduction from 500 to 250 people as the maximum number of attendees at an event in a special event facility. Hugh Clark will walk us through the SEQRA. We have received County and Town Planning Board comments indicating no issues.

**4. 2021 Budget** – We will have a public hearing on the final 2021 Budget prior to the 11/19 Board Meeting. The 2021 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 HVAC system in 2021 if we develop an energy efficient solution. We also will have the \$1.1 - \$1.2 million fund balance available if we need to make unbudgeted capital investments in 2021.

**5. HVAC at Town Hall** – The geothermal system we have been looking into has become significantly more expensive than originally assumed, so we are now looking into conventional systems and air source and ground source heat pump systems.

**5. Ancram Historic District Marker** – Ancram Hamlet Planning Group co-chair Paul Ricciardi has requested an opportunity 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.

**6. Retiree Health Insurance** – We will consider a resolution to approve a health insurance program for eligible employees who retire after January 1, 2021 and their spouses.

**7. Town Property & Liability Insurance** – We are expecting two proposals – two firms have dropped out of the process because they were blocked by other firms who had prior claims on the carriers they use. FAC will review bids in November and will present a recommendation to the Board in December.

**8. CDL Drug & Alcohol Testing Plan & Policy** – We will consider this Plan and Policy for adoption at our 11/19 meeting. Elements of this Plan & Policy are currently outlined in summary form in our Employee Handbook, but our Attorney has recommended we expand what is in the handbook into a stand-alone document with more extensive and detailed provisions to more precisely comply with current law.