

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin
Date: January 16, 2021
Supervisor's Report



- 1. Financial Report** – December numbers were as expected, and our ending year end cash balance came in as expected at \$1,150,000. The Highway Department contributed about \$250,000 to this year-end cash balance by coming in under budget by about \$250,000 in 2020, while the General Fund contributed about \$230,000 caused primarily by not using the \$130,000 contingent funds and because we did not operate the kids camp or pool . YTD sales tax receipts are about flat to last year, and the 4Q sales tax check which we expect to get later this month or early in February may be 3% over last year. While our financial situation is strong, it is not clear how we will do in 2021. Early indications are that state highway aid may be down substantially, and sales and mortgage tax revenues are still uncertain.
- 2. HVAC at Town Hall** – CSCTF Chair Suzan will give us an update on where things are with the town Hall HVAC project, which is not focused on evaluating the feasibility and economics of an Air Source Heat Pump system. Next step is to develop and issue an RFP for bids.
- 3. Solstice** – Colleen Lutz is working with Solstice on developing the marketing materials to support the roll out of the community solar program, Target date for communicating with the town is late January or early February.
- 4. Retiree Health Insurance** – I have had the retiree health insurance resolution approved last month turned into a policy statement for inclusion in the Employee Handbook. We will consider the policy statement for approval at our meeting next week if it is ready.
- 5. STR Permit Process** – The Building and Planning Departments are working on developing the process for reviewing and approving STR permit applications. We hope to have an email and application forms ready to be sent out to the Ancramemail list by the end of the month. Host Compliance, a company that tracks STRs for municipalities has proposed a \$2500 annual fee to provide us with information on the 22 STRS they believe are operating in Ancram.
- 6. Boston Corner Historic District** – Carol Falcetti has initiated the process to designate Boston Corner as a Historic District. Carol is working with historian Ruth Piwonka and NYS Historic Preservation Office project manager Jennifer Betsworth to develop the Boston corner historic district proposal. Funding for this effort will come from the \$7800 we have left in the Town Heritage Resources Fund which was originally collected when we started the historic district process for Ancram and Ancramdale back in 2011-2012.
- 7. Highway** – Jim Miller will present the annual 284 Agreement for Town Board approval, and will be recommending that we approve the purchase of a pre-owned bucket truck for about \$16,500. If we do not buy this bucket truck, Jim will have to spend \$1000 a day to have a tree service do routine tree work, which could cost the town \$10,000 a year.