

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



1. Financial Report – April was a normal month financially, and based on our first sales and mortgage tax checks, we appear to be headed for a strong year financially. 1Q sales tax came in at \$86,000 compared to a budgeted \$75,000. And our May mortgage tax payment will be \$69,000, compared to a budget of \$15,000. It is likely we will end the year with \$1.1 million in the fund balance, which will be about \$300,000 higher than our “normal” target fund balance of about \$800,000. FAC has suggested that we consider using this excess fund balance to pay down debt, supplement the American Rescue Plan program’s \$160,000 or reduce taxes.

2. American Rescue Plan – The Town is scheduled to receive \$160,000 under this program-half in June 2021 and half in June 2022. I have attached a list of possible ways we can use these funds, and we should continue to discuss possible other uses of the Rescue Plan money. Might make sense to designate a committee of FAC and TB members to review possible allowed uses of the funds, and recommend how to use these funds.

3. Marijuana Law – The Town Board has until the end of the year to decide if we want to opt out of the provisions of this law that allows the sale of marijuana in town through retail dispensaries and the establishment of marijuana “lounges”. If we decide to opt out, we would have to pass a local law subject to a permissive referendum. If we decide to opt in, we do not need to take any additional action, but we may have to add marijuana dispensaries and lounges to the use table in the Zoning Law and define where they can be established.

4. Ancram Neighbors Helping Neighbors Association – Jack Lindsey, co-chair of ANHNA, will join us on Thursday night to discuss how the Town can support ANHNA with its food distribution mission. Support could include a combination of financial assistance and help with the weekly pick up and distribution of food to families participating in the program.

5. 82/7 Intersection - Ancram

a) Enhanced Enforcement Patrol (EEP) in Ancram – The Ancram Hamlet Planning Group is working with the County Sheriff’s Department to set up an “Enhanced Enforcement Patrol” to better enforce the 35 mph speed limit at the 82/7 intersection in Ancram. The EEP will probably take the form of 2 or 3 days a week of 8-hour deputy coverage in and around the 82/7 intersection in Ancram. We will consider a resolution authorizing this arrangement at a cost not to exceed \$25,000, which should allow 24 hours of coverage per week for about 6 months.

b) Radar Speed Sign – We continue to work with NYS DOT to secure a permit to install radar speed signs on 82 outside of Ancram and Ancramdale. NYS DOT has requested that we do an engineering analysis on the base of the posts that will hold the signs, which we

are in the process of getting done, and may request that we change the radar sign itself to a more basic design consistent with NYS DOT guidelines.

c) 35 mph speed zone – We have requested that NYS DOT move the beginning of the 35 mph speed zone on 82 north of Ancram to the top of the hill approaching the 82/7 intersection, at about 2262 Route 82.

6. Camp/Pool Planning – No new guidance from NYS or the County yet, and if guidance does not change from last year, the Camp/Pool Board is recommending we do not open the camp or pool this year. The plan is to do all pool maintenance necessary to open the pool this summer by early July, and to make a final decision on whether or not to open the camp and pool by June 1. If we do decide to open, we may have problems finding lifeguards and camp counselors.

7. Town Hall HVAC – We will consider a resolution to accept a proposal from Jeff Boyles Heating to replace one of the original 2003 HVAC units at Town Hall with a Heil PDD4 dual fuel system costing \$14,750 that will reduce propane usage by almost 70% - about 566 gallons for one unit, and by 1700 gallons if we were to eventually replace all three HVAC units with the PDD4. We have also received a proposal from CPL Engineering for an RFP for an Air Source Heat Pump System. The RFP cost is \$24,000, and CPL has estimated the cost of installing an ASHP system at about \$200,000, after taking advantage of a \$70,000 NYSERDA grant. FAC has reviewed and discussed the ASHP proposal and recommends against it, as the payback is estimated at 98 years. CSCTF will review the proposal and present its recommendations next week. It is possible that we may be able to get additional grant money from NYSERDA to help fund the ASHP system, and we are looking into whether NYSERDA will reimburse us for doing the RFP even if we do not decide to install the ASHP system at this time.

8. Highway Road Work – The Highway Department paved portions of Carson and Doodletown roads last month, spending almost \$300,000, which is about the full amount of our revised NYS Chips, Pave NY and Emergency Weather Repair money. We had budgeted \$136,000 for NYS financial support for road repairs in 2021, but NYS recently notified us that they were increasing that amount by \$169,000 to about \$305,000.

9. Highway Bucket Truck - We will consider a proposal from Highway Superintendent Miller to purchase a new bucket truck for a cost not to exceed \$100,000.

10. Solstice – We have about 50 homes already signed up for the Solstice program. Colleen Lutz will be holding another Solstice Webinar on 5/19 at 7 pm.