

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin
Date: June 12, 2021
Supervisor's Report



1. Financial Report – May was a strong 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 was \$69,000, compared to a budget of \$15,000. It is likely we will end the year with about \$900,000 in the fund balance if we decide to prepay our \$240,000 plow truck loan, or with about \$1.1 million if we decide not to prepay the truck loan, which we are paying 1.5% interest on. Our “normal” targeted year-end fund balance is about \$800,000. FAC has suggested that we do not prepay the truck loan, but to consider using any excess fund balance to supplement the American Rescue Plan program’s \$160,000 and consider a dramatic investment in expanding broadband in unserved areas of town.

2. American Rescue Plan – The Town is scheduled to receive \$160,000 under this program-half in the next month or two and half a year later. FAC has discussed how we could use this money and has concluded we should evaluate projects eligible under ARPA based on impact on public health and safety, economic impact, sustainability and lives affected. Projects that seem to be most likely to meet these criteria are broadband expansion, support for ANHNA and support for emergency first responders - the Ancram Fire Company and the Copake Rescue Squad. FAC also suggests we consider matching the \$160,000 we expect to get from ARPA with town funds, so we will have \$320,000 to invest in recovering from the pandemic.

3. CSCTF – Suzan Flamm has applied to NYSERDA to approve reimbursement for the \$24,000 ASHP RFP project and the installation of the \$15,000 PDD4 dual fuel unit. She has also requested that our grant be extended for 18 months to the end of 2022, to give us more time to use the funds. Solstice is doing well, with over 50 sign ups. At the suggestion of FAC member Mike Citrin we are also exploring whether there are better environmental impacts for a \$200,000 investment of town funds than the ASHP system.

4. Ancram Neighbors Helping Neighbors Association – Jack Lindsey, co-chair of ANHNA, will join us again Thursday night to discuss how the Town can support ANHNA with its food distribution mission. Support could include a combination of financial assistance and the use of a town vehicle. Resolution 1 outlines how we may be able to assist ANHNA.

6. 82/7 Intersection - Ancram

a) Enhanced Enforcement Patrol (EEP) in Ancram – EEPs will begin the week of June 18 and will cover Ancram, Ancramdale and Boston Corner. The EEPs will be scheduled for two days a week for 8 hours a day, for 60 days, at which point we will evaluate the program and decide if we want to continue it or not. That decision might depend on whether or not we have gotten our radar sign permit.

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.

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. We expect a response from NYS DOT soon.

6. Camp/Pool – Both Pine Plains and Hillsdale have opened their camps to Ancram Kids. No information yet on how many Ancram kids have applied to these camps.

7. Marijuana Law – **As you may recall**, 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 allow 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 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. We should decide at next week’s meeting if we want to opt out or not, and if we do want to opt out, we can have a local law prepared to consider in July. As a point of interest, FAC was 6-1 in favor of opting out.

8) Broadband – We will be considering two resolutions at our 6/17 meeting to expand broadband in Town. One is to approve a \$30,000 payment to Consolidated to expand broadband to about 35 homes in Boston Corner, and the other is to request an RFP from the ISPs to provide broadband for about 200 unserved homes around town. As a practical matter, Consolidated is the only likely bidder, and we should be able to get a cost, road by road, to reach these 200 homes.

9) Deputy Planning Board/ZBA Clerk – We will consider a resolution authorizing the Planning Board to add a deputy clerk to help process the volume of applications they are dealing with.

10) Speed limit on Simons Rd – A resident on Simons Rd has requested that we apply to the County and State to reduce the speed limit on Simons from 55 to 30. We still have not heard back on our request to reduce the speed limit on CR 3.

11) Roe Jan Ramble Bike Tour – We will consider resolution to designate the 2021 RoeJan Ramble Bike Tour a Town sponsored event so volunteers working on the bike event are covered by town insurance.