

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin
Date: July 10, 2021
Supervisor's Report



1. **Financial Report** – Normal financial month.
2. **American Rescue Plan** – We submitted our application to NYS on 6/22 and have been notified that we should expect to receive \$152,301, not \$160,000, in two installments – half around the end of July and half a year later. Projects that seem to be most likely to meet ARPA criteria are broadband expansion, support for not for profits like ANHNA and support for emergency first responders - the Ancram Fire Company and the Copake Rescue Squad. We are being advised to move slowly and carefully in disbursing the funds. The County will receive \$11.4 million over two years – it has already received \$5.7 million, will receive another \$5.7 million this time next year, and is working on a plan on how to use the funds.
3. **CSCTF** – CSCTF is recommending that the Town Board approve using the \$71,000 remaining NYSERDA grant money to support an investment of \$180,000 to install an air source heat pump system at town hall, or use the grant money for electric vehicles. CSCTF Chair Suzan Flam has requested that our NYSERDA 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 69 sign ups.
4. **Marijuana Law Survey Results** – 300 responses to the survey. 61% in favor of allowing retail sales and smoking lounges, 39% in favor of opting out.
5. **Enhanced Enforcement Patrol (EEP) in Ancram** – EEPs have started, but scheduling is erratic as the Sheriff's Department is short staffed and is not able to attract volunteers to reliably cover our shifts.
6. **Radar Speed Signs** – We have resubmitted our application to NYS DOT for a permit to place radar speed signs on fixed poles on 82 coming into Ancram and coming into Ancramdale. When this permit is approved, we will purchase two new radar speed signs that meet NYS DOT guidelines. Our two trailer mounted radar signs have been positioned in the center of Ancram and Ancramdale slow traffic coming through the centers of the two hamlets.
7. **35 mph speed zone** – No new news. 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.
8. **Ancram Opera House** – The Ancram Opera House is requesting that the Town Board pass a resolution supporting a grant application to get funds to renovate a house adjacent to the Opera House for staff housing.

9. Cyber Insurance – We have received a proposal for cyber insurance to protect the Town from ransomware attacks. Even though the risk may be small, this is probably a good thing to invest in, just in case. The policy costs \$2600.

10. Broadband – We have retained a grant consultant at a cost of \$4000 to assist us with a grant application for between \$300,000-\$500,000 to expand broadband to all areas of the Town that are not currently served by broadband.

11. Highway Staff – We still have one highway employee out on long term disability, and just received a resignation from a second employee, so staffing is now at 50%. Jim will be advertising for new staff, and we will discuss the need to increase our pay and benefits for the highway crew to retain and attract needed staff.