

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin
Subject: Supervisor's Report
Date: August 13, 2022



1) Financial Report – July financial results were as expected. We continue to see significant increases in the cost of highway materials, with 2022 fuel costs likely to be about \$20,000 over a \$40,000 budget. Given the likely continuation of a combination of high inflation, rising interest rates, supply chain uncertainties, oil price spikes, potential oil shortages, food and fuel cost increases and the situation in Ukraine, the economic environment is unpredictable and is likely to negatively impact our costs and revenues. We should plan to continue to be cautious and conservative in our financial management until we see how things evolve, and what happens with costs, sales tax and mortgage tax revenues over the balance of the year.

2) 2023 Draft Tentative Budget – We will start the 2023 budget process with a look at the draft of the 2023 Tentative Budget, which indicates our 2023 property tax levy will be about the same as our 2022 tax levy at \$714,000. We will hold public hearings on the Tentative Budget in September, on the Preliminary Budget in October and on the final budget in November. Major uncertainties continue to be the magnitude of price increases for general goods and services, highway materials, health insurance and the state retirement contribution and the risks to our sales tax and mortgage tax revenues from an uncertain economic environment. As we get more clarity on these issues over the next few months, we will refine the budget and finalize it by our November meeting.

3) Local Law #6 of 2022 – Zoning Revisions – We will consider Local Law #6 of 2022 (zoning revisions) for adoption at our 8/18 Town Board meeting.

4) County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan – The current County Plan expires in May of 2023, and the County plans to work on an update between now and then. Each town has been asked to designate a representative or two to serve as the contact person for this county-wide effort. We should plan to discuss and decide who will represent Ancram in this effort.

5) Climate Smart Community Task Force Chair – Suzan Flamm has indicated she will be resigning as chair of the CSCTF and no current members of the CSCTF have indicated an interest in replacing her as chair. We will circulate a notice to the Ancramemail list requesting volunteers for this important position, but it may be a hard job to fill from outside the current CSCTF group.

6) NYS Toll Free Sexual Harassment Hotline – NYS activated this hotline as of 7/19/22. While there is no current requirement to notify employees of this hotline, we will communicate the existence of this hotline to our employees, post a notice of this hotline on town bulletin boards and add this information to the Employee Handbook.