

Minutes
Financial Advisory Council
December 10, 2022

Present: Art Bassin, Carol Falcetti, Will Maitland-Weiss, Peter Scola, Hugh Clark, Ann Rader – All by Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Art Bassin at 9:39 A.M.

November financial reports, T-bill update & YE projection (will be circulated next week when available)

Art Bassin stated that there was a significant increase in income from fees and fines on the part of the Building Department. This is due to the natural seasonal process of construction taking place during warmer weather, not an overall increase in development.

Currently, the town has \$1,250,000 invested in T-bills maturing in January, February, and March at 3.5% to 4%. The plan is to roll the money over until it's needed.

Fee Schedule, Financial Process Manual, Purchasing Policy (previously circulated)

Updating the fee schedule is under consideration. Originally, the town was \$30,000 to \$35,000 short; the fees were not covering the cost to the town for the building department oversight and Planning Board and/or ZBA involvement. Currently, the shortage is about \$15,000. Ed Ferrato recommends increasing the fee for a building permit from \$4 per \$1000 to \$5 per \$1000.

Ed Ferrato suggests changing the language describing a penalty from “fine” to “fee”.

Regarding the Financial Process Manual, there have been no proposed changes so it will remain as is.

SIC Updates - Housing, Water, Pavilion, Solar

Will Maitland-Weiss reported:

Water -- James Kennedy and Nan Stolzenburg are looking over the water survey results and will then send the information to Steve Winkley (spelling, please).

Solar – Will Maitland-Weiss and Suzan Flamm and the Climate Smart Committee will meet to go over information to ensure that they are in accord with the recommendations they will offer.

Pavilion – Steve Olyha is prodding the engineer regarding completing site reviews for Blass Field and the Town Hall site.

Housing – There is some movement in the Roe Jan area, specifically, land adjacent to the old school house on Rte. 22. Amy Gold, Town Board Member, among others from the area, visited the site with RUFFCO, non-profit that has developed affordable housing in Ulster County.

On the County level, Will Maitland-Weiss will be talking to Mike Tucker about what the County will be doing to support work-force housing and how Ancram could benefit.

Art Bassin mentioned that, regarding a pavilion, he is skeptical about how necessary it would be and how useful. At this time, he would vote against it but sees the value in continuing to explore the concept.

Highway

Jim Miller, Highway Superintendent, was absent. Art Bassin stated that the Highway Department is preparing for winter snows, as it should be.

Revaluation

Art Bassin stated that the town has decided to go ahead with the revaluation to bring property values to market value. Should there be a substantial devaluation the town can then revisit and lower the values.

Other

Art Bassin stated that the town has \$12,500 in unallocated ARPA money. Neighbors Helping Neighbors has asked that the town donate to the home heating and car/home repair fund. Art will recommend a grant of \$10,000 for this purpose.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors will also be receiving \$13,000 of previously allocated ARPA money to pay the van drivers who pick up food.

By making these investments, all but about \$500 of the ARPA money will have been allocated.

In addition, the town invested \$30,000 in ARPA money for Broad Band for Boston Corner and also a small amount for masks, etc. during the Covid pandemic.

Art Bassin Adjourned the meeting at 9:58 A.M.

Respectfully,
Ann Rader