


To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin 
Date: 9/13/2011
Subject: Supervisor's Report – August 2011

August Financial Report: Revenues and expenses continue on budget for the first seven months of 2011, in both the Highway Department and Town Government. Ancram's total spending for the first eight months was \$1,020,000, including \$123,000 for two new "used" plow/dump trucks and a front end loader for the Highway Department. Cash in the bank as of 8/30/11 was \$890,000. Major financial commitments over the next few months include paying the first installment of our ten-year garage loan (\$52,000 in principal and interest) and the completion of the conversion of the Milk Factory building to a salt shed. We have decided not to replace the roof on the salt shed building, as it seems to be tight, despite the heavy hurricane rains we have had over the last month. This will save us about \$20,000, and reduce the cost of the salt shed to about \$50,000. Based on forecast revenue and spending for the rest of the year, we still expect we will end the year with about \$500,000 in the bank.

Town Projects, Activities & Issues

1. **Zoning Revisions Process:** We had the public hearing on the second package of proposed zoning amendments (Site Plan Review and Open Space Conservation Subdivisions) to the 1972 Zoning Ordinance last night. We will consider the proposed amendments for adoption at the 9/15 Board meeting, but because we have not yet heard from the Ancram Planning Board and because there will be modifications to the draft amendments, we may want to postpone adoption of these two amendments until our October meeting. We will review the long form EAF as part of the SEQRA process on Thursday, and will determine if we make a negative declaration. .
2. **2012 Budget Process:** Please review and plan to discuss & comment on the 2012 Tentative Budget at the 9/15 TB meeting.
3. **Eagle Scout Project:** Carl Jamison has received financial support for his Eagle Scout community service project totaling over \$955, which he has deposited in the town bank account.
4. **Highway Employee Manual:** Legal review is underway. We will spend some time talking about whether we want to create a full time Highway Deputy position, as suggested by Taffy Blass in her recent letter to the Town Board.
5. **Financial Policy Document:** Legal review is underway.

County/State Issues

1. **County Manager:** This idea appears to be on hold until after the 2011 elections.
2. **DSS Space/Walmart Project:** The County has extended the option to purchase the Walmart Store until early November. Based on some revised numbers which were presented to Supervisors at the last County Board meeting, I have concluded that

moving to Walmart is too expensive, and we would be best served by leaving DSS at 25 RR Ave, where they are now, and buying that building. Over the next five years, buying and staying at 25 RR Ave could cost \$300,000 to \$500,000 a year less than a purchase and renovation of Walmart. There are some concerns about environmental issues at that site which will need to be resolved before the county could buy 25 RR Ave, and there is still no consensus among supervisors as to what the best solution for DSS is. The DSS lease ran out at the end of last month.