

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin 
Date: January 15, 2012
Subject: Supervisor's Report – January 2012

December Financial Report: We ended the year as expected with about \$569,000 in the bank, excluding the 4Q 21011 Sales tax check, which we expect to get later in the month. It should be about \$60,000. We will accrue into 2011 per the NYS Comptrollers Division's accounting rules. Including the 4Q sales tax money, which I have shown in the Summary Financial chart attached, full year 2011 revenues will come in at about \$1.5 million, about \$100,000 ahead of budget. Expenses will come in at \$1,593,000 about \$90,000 better than the adjusted budget. We will not "officially" close out our 2011 books until we get the final sales tax numbers, which should happen in the next week or so. We will review the Town Supervisor's and Town Clerk's financial processes and books at the 1/19 TB meeting. As you know, the TB and members of the Financial Advisory Council reviewed the financial processes and cash handling controls of the Town Court and the Building Department at a special meeting on January 14. All appeared to be in order in these departments.

Intersection Advisory Committee: We have about 15 people who have expressed interest in working with the county on the 82/7 intersection improvement project. Our role will be to give the county community feedback regarding what we would like them to consider when they do the planning & work to improve traffic safety at the intersection. The final decision on what the intersection will look like when completed, and whether or not the Tin Smith House standing at that intersection will have to be taken down or not, will be the County's. The county will be making its decisions based on what is the best solution for traffic safety, including improving sight lines, turning radiuses and roadway grades. The Intersection Advisory committee will meet on February 4 at 8:30 am at Town Hall, and again at 6 pm on February 16.

Recreation Planning Group: We have 5 people interested in serving on the Recreation Planning Group. I will schedule a first meeting of this group for early February.

Cell Tower Status: The ZRC has received a letter from Ron and Ann Rader suggesting some changes to our 2011 cell tower law and that the Town impose a moratorium on cell towers until the law can be revised. The TB was copied on this letter, and we will review it briefly at the 1/19 meeting, and discuss if we want to consider a moratorium. Based on a preliminary conversation with Nan Stolzenburg, the time to put a moratorium into effect may be the same as just changing the law if we decide to do that. In terms of the specific proposals in the Rader letter, I suggest we wait until the ZRC has had a chance to review them before we deal with them. I have heard from several people interested in having a cell tower on their lands, and have passed these names along to Mariner. Nothing new on the Mariner effort, except that Chris Ciolfi has told me he and ATT are reviewing alternate sites in the area of the Tucker property and will get back to us as soon as something is decided.

County Issues

BOS Chair: The County Board of Supervisors elected Pat Grattan, the Kinderhook Supervisor, as BOS chair. Pat has laid out an program of careful financial management, including providing all supervisors with monthly county financial information, which we have never previously had. This alone will make a huge difference in the effectiveness of the county management process, and will help keep costs in control.

DSS Space: The major item on the agenda over the next few months will be how to resolve the DSS space issue. The Phase 2 contamination assessment of 25 RR Ave, which has been home to DSS for the last 20 years, should be completed by early February. If the county decides to buy 25 RR Ave, it will probably cost around \$1 million, and will save about \$400,000 a year in rent payments. Concerns about DSS not having enough space in 25 RR Ave can be resolved by moving some of the DSS staff to a county office building at 610 State Street, which is a 5 minute walk from 25 RR Ave. The 5 Hudson Democratic Supervisors may still be interested in building a new building for DSS in Hudson, which could cost between \$10 and 15 million. Unless the contamination assessment suggests it is not possible to keep DSS at 25 RR Ave, I will support the idea that DSS stays at 25 RR Ave, and save the \$400,000 a year in rent.

Fire Coordinator: The BOS (and I) voted against the recommendation of the Public Safety Committee to appoint Paul D'Nofrio as County Fire Coordinator. Paul seems like an excellent candidate for the job, but most Supervisors had consulted with their Fire Companies and Fire Commissioners, and voted according to how our volunteer firefighters wanted us to vote. The majority of the fire companies seemed to support incumbent Jim Van Deusen, who will remain County Fire coordinator until either he is reappointed, or the BOs approves the appointment of someone else. Ancram fire commissioner and volunteer firefighter Bill Hunt is a Deputy County Fire Coordinator, and supported Van Deusen