

**To: Ancram Town Board**  
**From: Art Bassin**   
**Date: 6/12/2011**  
**Subject: Supervisor's Report – May 2011**

**Financial Report:** Revenues and expenses continue on budget for the first five months of 2011, in both the Highway Department and Town Government. Ancram's total spending for the first five months was \$616,000. The Highway Department continues to stay on budget despite a combination of high fuel costs, the costs of the cleanup of the March ice storm and higher than expected snow removal costs during the first quarter. Cash in the bank as of 5/31/11 was \$1.2 million. Major investments coming up over the next few months include are the purchase of the new Case Loader for the highway department (about \$85,000), the conversion of the Milk Factory building to a salt shed (about \$50,000) and the purchase of another used plow truck (\$25,000). Based on revenue and cost trends so far this year, and spending about \$175,000 on capital projects, we expect to end the year with about \$500,000 in the bank.

### **Town Projects, Activities & Issues**

1. **New playground:** Essentially completed, with some minor touch up to do to finalize the project. Congratulations for a job well done to the Youth Commission and all the Volunteers who helped out on this effort.
2. **Summer Kid's Camp:** Camp Director Ruth Thomas is taking applications. The Camp is scheduled to open on July 5. The A.N.N Memorial Day BBQ raised about \$2000 for the Ancram Kid's Camp, and about \$1000 for Animal Kind.
3. **2012 Budget Process:** We will start the 2012 budget cycle this month, as soon as I get the budget forms from the Accountant. I will develop a preliminary 2012 budget for your review that assumes no town property tax increase again in 2012.
4. **First garage loan repayment:** The first payment on our 10-year garage loan will be due in August. Principal (\$40,000) and interest (\$12,000) due totals \$52,000. We could repay more than the \$40,000 principal due if we wanted to -- we budgeted to repay \$80,000 in principal...but that was before we decided to spend \$40,000 on plow trucks and \$85,000 on a new loader, and before the 2% property tax cap came up. We will discuss this at next week's meeting.

### **County/State Issues**

1. **Property Tax Caps:** Cuomo has proposed a 2% property tax cap for 2012. This will not affect the town much, as I plan to recommend that we keep town taxes flat again in 2012. At the county level, the 2% cap could cause some problems, as the 2012 county agenda for the Walmart move, systems investments, the court house renovation and routine equipment investments could exceed the 2% cap, unless the county identifies and implements substantial cost savings opportunities.

- 2. County Manager:** The County Manager proposal has been presented in draft form to the BOS, will be formally presented to the County Government Committee at its June meeting, and will be proposed to the BOS at the July meeting. There is an active debate going on at the BOS on the pros and cons of the County Manager, and it's too close to call the vote at this point. I support the need for a County Manager, and believe a County Manager will help the County run better and save taxpayers money.
- 3. Walmart Consolidation:** The County continues to explore the costs and issues related to moving about 450 county employees to the old Walmart building in Greenport. The next major milestone, which will happen in the next week or two, is to hire an architect to do the design so the project can go out to bid. This project was triggered by a need to move the Department of Social Services from its 28,000 sf rented space to somewhere else by the end of the year. The only option at this point is Walmart, a 125,000 sf building. Other options which have been considered but rejected are leaving DSS at its current location, or building a new building in Hudson. Total costs will not be known until after the design is done and bids are back, which will be late in the fall.
- 4. Emergency Management Consolidation:** The Board of Supervisors voted last week to consolidate the County Emergency Management office into the County Sheriff's department. The Sheriff already had been providing facilities and manpower support for the Emergency Management Office. This consolidation was supported by the head of the Emergency Management Office and the Sheriff, and should be in the best interests of the County.
- 5. 911 Consolidation:** A proposal to consolidate the County 911 service into the Sheriff's Department also came up for discussion last week. This proposal was not well received by the 911 dispatchers or by other emergency responders like the fire companies or rescue squads that rely on 911. This proposal is not likely to be acted on for months, as more information is collected and the various interested parties are brought into the discussion.