

To: Ancram Town Board

From: Art Bassin

Date: 12/13/2011

Subject: Supervisor's Report – December 2011



November Financial Report: Revenues are slightly ahead of budget, while expenses continue to track on budget through the end of November. Total spending through November was \$1,503,000, about 83% of the adjusted full year budget, with revenues coming in at \$1,437,000, about 103% the revenue budget. Cash in the bank as of 11/3/11 was \$658,000. We still expect we will end the year with over \$500,000 in the bank.

2012 Final Budget: A copy of the adopted 2012 Budget is available in hard copy from the Town Clerk, and is on the Town website. As we discussed last month, this is the third year in a row that Ancram has filed a budget with no property tax increase.

Central Hudson Snow Storm/Power Outage Meeting: There was a meeting with Central Hudson and the PSA on 11/28, which Fire Chief David Boice and I attended along with senior County emergency management leaders. We talked about the problems with Central Hudson's response during the last storm, and agreed on ways to improve responsiveness next time.

Highway Department: The renovation of the old milk factory building into the new sand/salt shed has been completed. The project was budgeted at about \$60,000, and cost about \$40,000 to complete. We will use the remaining \$20,000 next year to paint the building, and do minor repairs to some parts of the roof flashing.

Cell Tower Public Hearing: Mariner Tower Development is considering its options following the 12/1 public hearing. They will be returning to the PB again at the January meeting for further review of the application.

Planning Board: Colleen Lutz has resigned as chair of the Planning Board, and will assume the position of vice chair. The Planning board has recommended that John Ingram be appointed chair. We will hold a special Town Board meeting on Saturday, December 17 at 10 am to interview John Ingram to be chair of the Planning Board, to interview any candidates for a second Planning Board alternate position, and to interview any persons interested in any other town board or committee positions.

Town Home Rule Lawsuit related to Gas Drilling: Several towns located in areas of NYS have passed local zoning laws banning gas drilling and hydrofracking as inconsistent with their Comprehensive Plans. The gas industry has challenged these local zoning laws, arguing that only NY State has the right to regulate gas drilling. We have been asked by the town of Middlefield to join with other towns to show our support for the NYS Home Rule law and a town's right to set its own land use laws by agreeing to sign a "friend of the court" filing. We will discuss this issue at the 12/15 meeting, and consider a resolution to support the home rule argument.

2012 Organizational Meeting: We have scheduled the 2012 organizational meeting for 6 pm, Thursday January 5. I will have a draft of the organizational meeting resolutions available for your review at the 12/15 TB meeting.

Annual audit: Town Boards are required by Town Law to audit the town's books, or have the town's books audited by January 20. This audit will cost about \$15,000 if done by an outside auditor. We will discuss this at the 12/15 Tb meeting.