

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin 
Date: 11/13/2011
Subject: Supervisor's Report – November 2011

October Financial Report: Revenues and expenses continue on budget for the first ten months of 2011, in both the Highway Department and Town Government. Ancram's total spending for the first ten months was \$1,354,000. Cash in the bank as of 10/31/11 was \$783,000. We still expect we will end the year with over \$500,000 in the bank.

2012 Final Budget: The Final budget proposes that town property taxes drop by \$88,000 in 2012, which will be offset by an equal increase in county property taxes, as we shift the payment of the Rescue Squad from the town to the county. With the exception of this shift in taxes, town taxes will remain flat in 2012, for the third year. A copy of the 2012 Budget is available in hard copy from the Town Clerk, and on the Town website. We will review and discuss the final budget during the 11/17 TB meeting, and will make whatever changes we feel are appropriate prior to considering the final budget for adoption at that TB meeting.

Snow Storm/Power Outages: Power came back last week 5-6 days after the storm. Central Hudson says it was not able to restore power in Ancram until it had rebuilt its infrastructure south of us, but they had managed to get power back to the Mill by Monday night. The County filed a complaint against Central Hudson with the Public Service Commission, charging Central Hudson did not adequately meet the needs of the Ancram community in the timeliness of its power restoration efforts. There will be a meeting with Central Hudson and the PSA on 11/28, which I will be attending, along with senior County emergency management leaders.

Highway Department Brush Cleanup: The Highway Department has been cleaning up the debris that came down as a result of last week's storm. Anyone who wants the Highway Department to chip up debris from the storm should make sure the branches are by the side of the road.

Fairpoint Telephone Issues: We have been having recurring problems with the telephone system at Town Hall, and I have been getting general complaints from around town about the poor quality of Fairpoint's telephone and internet service. In checking with other town supervisors, the Fairpoint problem seems to be county-wide. I plan to conduct a survey of Ancram users of Fairpoint, and based on the results, we will consider requesting the County file a complaint against Fairpoint with the PSA. I will send around a proposed survey form prior to our 11/17 meeting.

Cell Tower Status: Mariner Tower Development has submitted an application for a cell tower permit for a property at 2259 State Route 82, on the Ancram – Gallatin boarder. The applicant has asked the Planning Board to waive the 150 foot property line set back requirement for one property line. A public hearing on the application will be held during the 12/1 Planning Board Meeting.

Ancram Eagle Project: Carl Jamieson has completed the commemorative stone walkway leading to the flagpole at Town Hall. This was a community service project undertaken as part of the qualifications for his Eagle Scout Award. The stone walkway is elegant and powerful...a great addition to the Town Hall. Donations to support the walkway exceeded costs, so Carl has decided to donate the remaining funds, about \$800, equally between the Ancram Youth Commission and Neighbors Helping Neighbors.