

To: Ancram Town Board

From: Art Bassin

Date: 10/16/2011

Subject: Supervisor's Report – September 2011



September Financial Report: Revenues and expenses continue on budget for the first nine months of 2011, in both the Highway Department and Town Government. Ancram's total spending for the first nine months was \$1,231,000, including \$123,000 for two "new" used plow/dump trucks and a new front end loader for the Highway Department. Cash in the bank as of 9/30/11 was \$827,000. Also included our 2011 expenses through the third quarter are payments for the first installment of our ten-year garage loan (\$52,000 in principal and interest), and about \$42,000 for the conversion of the milk factory building to a salt shed. Based on forecast revenue and spending for the rest of the year, we still expect we will end the year with over \$500,000 in the bank.

2012 Preliminary Budget: We will hold a public hearing on the 2012 Preliminary Budget at 6:45 pm on 10/20, prior to the town Board Meeting. The budget proposes that town property taxes drop by \$84,000 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. I have emailed you a copy of the Preliminary Budget, which is available in hard copy from the Town Clerk, and on the Town website. We will also review and discuss the preliminary budget during the 10/20 TB meeting, and will make whatever changes we feel are appropriate prior to considering the final budget for adoption at our November TB meeting.

Zoning Revisions Process: We will review and consider the Site Plan and Open Space Subdivision zoning amendments for adoption at the 10/20 TB meeting. We have previously held a public hearing on these proposed zoning amendments, and reviewed the long form EAF and made a negative declaration to meet SEQRA requirements. We have also received and considered Columbia County and Ancram Planning Board comments, and comments from the CAC and individuals who have comments at the public hearing and in writing about these proposed amendments.

County Issue - DSS Space: The County has decided to buy 25 RR Avenue, where the Department of Social Services currently is housed, for approximately \$1.3 million, subject to a Phase 2 contamination assessment and other routine due diligence. There is no immediate need for any capital investment to make the 25 RR Ave space ready for DSS operations, as the DSS staff has been there for 20 years. I support this decision and voted for it, as the least cost and least disruptive solution. The 125,000 sf Walmart space alternative would cost about \$15 million more to buy and build out, and would cost about \$1 million more a year to finance and operate.