

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



March Financial Report: Spending for the first quarter of 2012 totaled \$279,000, about \$57,000 better than the YTD budget. We continue to benefit from a mild winter, with snow removal and fuel costs down from the 1Q 2011 by over \$50,000. We ended the month of March with \$1,206,000 in the bank. The Financial Summary Chart is attached. The detailed financial reports are available on the Town website (www.townofancram.org) and at Town Hall, and have been emailed to you separately.

Salt Shed Siding: Work is pretty much done on the salt shed and roof. We now need to discuss what kind of siding to apply to the salt shed. Our basic options are 1) to replace or repair the wooden siding and paint the salt shed, or 2) to use vinyl siding. We should have cost estimates for each option by Thursday night, but the wooden siding/paint solution is likely to cost substantially more than the vinyl siding.

82/7 Intersection: Hugh Clark and I met with Dave Robinson, two members of his staff & four people from the NYS DOT Wednesday, March 28 to go over plans for the 8/27 intersection. Jim Rapoli of NYSDOT and others made it clear that the steep grade of CR 7 leading to the 82 intersection cannot be reduced without extensive and expensive re-grading several hundred yards up CR7, which will affect driveways along that road. Also, any notion about the installation of a 3-phase signal light looks dim; requires a TB resolution to generate a NYSDOT traffic study, which is not likely to validate sufficient traffic to warrant such a light.

NYS DOT did agree to support the idea of carving back the retaining wall, improving the turn radius and moving the triangle. Dave Robinson is still working with the assumption that he can do this work without buying or moving the Tin Smith House. The idea is to do something simple and practical, see how it works, and do more at a later date if necessary. Dave wants to defer working on the sight line looking up 82 to the west and deal with that as a separate project at a later date.

Next step is that the County will get in touch with the regional DOT maintenance supervisor to talk about the actual work plan, and DOT will provide whatever engineering support they can to help determine if the work can be done without damage to the house. The County may have to hire an engineer to do a formal review of the structural issues related to this project, and we may have to contribute to that cost. NYS DOT asked that we document our overall "plan" for the intersection, which I will do. We will meet again once the county has developed some concrete plans and a timetable for the intersection work. Dave Robinson thinks the work can be done by the end of this year.

Cell Tower Status: Mariner has withdrawn its application for the Tucker site on 82 at the Gallatin-Ancram border. Mariner indicates they have found another site in the same general area, and are awaiting ATT approval before submitting a new application. In addition, Mariner has announced they are applying for a tower permit for a site on 10 Neighbors Road in Gallatin, which is on the western side of the Taconic Parkway, slightly north of the Jackson Corners exit.

Cell tower law: The ZRC reports that they have completed their review of the Town's 2011 cell tower law, and will be submitting a revised law for TB review and approval. We will hold a public hearing on the new law prior to the May TB meeting.

Speed limit reductions: **The Town has received** petitions requesting speed limit reductions on Carson Road and Prospect Hill Rd. We will discuss whether we want to hold public hearings on these speed limit changes, and whether we will want petitions to be signed by a majority of the residents on a road requesting a speed limit reduction.

Roadside Tree Cutting Policy: We will discuss and determine if we want to adopt the County Highway Department's tree cutting policy. The County policy is outlined in the draft resolutions.

Noise Law Complaints: We have had a series of complaints about barking dogs on State Route 22. The County Sheriff's Department and the Town Animal Control Officer have been called to the scene of the barking dogs multiple times over the past few months. The Town's Animal Control Officer has issued a formal warning as required by Town Ordinance #1 of 1997, and will file a formal complaint to bring the owners of the barking dogs to Town Court if the problem persists. A barking dog violation may lead to fines of up to \$250 per violation. In addition, we received a complaint from a homeowner on State Route 82 whose neighbors were playing loud music all night. If this problem persists, the County Sheriff will be advised by the homeowner.

Dog Census: I will be proposing at the TB meeting that the Town Board authorize the Town Supervisor and Town Clerk to secure quotes for conducting a dog census in Ancram in the Fall. The benefit to the Town of this dog census will be 1) more dogs will be tagged, and easier to return to their owners when lost, which can save the Town or the dog's owner \$305 in kennel fees at the Columbia Greene Humane Society, and 2) more dogs will have their rabies shots up to date. Once we get an idea of how much it will cost us to do the dog census, we will be in a better position to decide whether or not to move ahead with this effort.

DSS Space: County Chairman Pat Grattan has appointed a committee to negotiate for the purchase of the 25 RR Avenue property. I have been asked to serve on this committee.