

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin 
Date: March 11, 2012
Subject: Supervisor's Report – February 2012

February Financial Report: Spending for the first two months of 2012 totaled \$180,000, about 40,000 better than the YTD budget. We continue to benefit from a mild winter. We received and booked our December sales tax check of \$60,000 and the \$845,000 of tax revenues, and ended the month with \$1,298,000 in the bank. The financial summary Chart is attached showing the details of the year to date, compared against budget and prior years actuals.

82/7 Intersection: Nothing new to report. Dave Robinson is working to arrange a meeting with the state to talk about next steps.

Cell Tower Status: Nothing new to report. The Mariner application at the Tucker site on 82 at the Gallatin boarder is still on hold at Mariner's request, as they seek ATT approval for alternate sites.

County Issues

DSS Space: The Phase 2 Contamination Assessment on the 25 RR Avenue space came in last week, and did not identify any new issues. BOS Chair Pat Grattan has said he will negotiate the purchase of 25 RR Ave and ask for BOS approval. I support this decision. It will save the county over \$400,000 a year in rent. Price is expected to be under \$1.3 million.

Community Home Health Agency: The County has decided to sell its Community Home Health Agency, which provides visiting nurse services. The Agency is losing about \$600,000 a year, and competes with private agencies which provide the same service. I support this decision.

Nursing Home: The County has been working on a plan to build a new nursing home to replace the current facility. The estimated cost is \$32 million, of which the County expects the State to fund \$30 million. There have been discussions about selling the nursing home so it is operated privately, which probably makes the most sense long term. Currently a majority of the BOS appears supportive of moving ahead with the plan to build a new facility. The NY State review and approval process for this new nursing home facility could take several years, and the availability of State financial support for this kind of activity could change in that time.

Airport Plan: The County commissioned an Airport Plan last year, which recommended investing at least \$8 million to improve and upgrade the County Airport. The Airport currently loses about \$50,000 a year, and after an \$8 million investment, is still projected to lose about \$50,000 a year. The rationale for investing in the airport is that it will stimulate economic development, but no data was presented in the Plan to suggest what the impact of the \$8 million investment would be on economic development. At this point, the Airport Plan requiring an \$8 million investment does not seem worthy of the County's effort. 98% of the proposed \$8 million investment will come from State and Federal airport grants, but it is still public money being used for a project that does not appear to have a financial return.

Fire Coordinator: John Howe, the Fire Chief in Chatham and currently a deputy County fire Coordinator, has been recommended by the Fire Advisory Board as the next County Fire Coordinator. Both Jim VanDusen, the current incumbent, and Paul D'Nofrio, who had been nominated by the Public Safety Committee for the job, have withdrawn their names from consideration.