

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin 
Date: November 13, 2012
Subject: Monthly Supervisors Report

Financial Report: Town financial results continue to be good. Spending for the ten months ending September 2012 totaled \$1,106,000, about on budget, and about \$200,000 under October 2011 YTD. Our lower spending this year results from the mild winter's impact of salt, sand and gas (\$50,000), lower salt shed construction costs (\$19,000), lower equipment purchase & repair costs (\$20,000), moving our Rescue Squad costs to the county (\$84,000) and lower youth program and playground costs (\$34,000). Revenues continue to track above budget – we are at \$1,314,000 through October, \$9,000 above the full year 2012 budget. It is looking like the full year revenue number could exceed budget by over \$60,000, through a combination of higher than expected sales taxes (\$37,000) and the \$26,000 insurance settlement for the garage siding. We ended October with \$828,000 in the bank, and assuming no unpleasant surprises, could end the year with about \$600,000 in the bank. The October YTD Financial Summary Chart is attached.

Zoning Revisions: We will continue the Package 4 Public Hearing at 6 pm on 11/15. Hugh Clark reports the ZRC is working through the issues raised during the first session of the Public Hearing on 10/17, but will not have revised Package 4 until December.

2013 Budget: We will adopt the 2013 Town Budget at the 11/15 TB meeting. No changes since the Preliminary budget was approved at last month's TB meeting. Town property taxes will decrease by 4%, or \$33,000, and we are budgeting a contingency account of \$72,000 to cover any unexpected revenue or cost problems in 2013.

82/7 Intersection: The County has developed a way to protect the wall perpendicular to 82 from further deterioration, and plans to proceed with the project. Weather permitting, the work could be done by the end of the year.

Wind Turbines: A "fix" is scheduled for the Gershon turbine to reduce the noises produced at low wind speeds. Furling the tails of the turbines during periods of high wind and no power seemed to work with two of the three turbines on Carson Rd during the recent storm. Hudson Valley Wind Energy plans to meet with the residents near the Carson Rd Turbines to discuss the situation.

Dog Law: I plan to have a draft of a new dog law for the December meeting. The law will allow our Animal Control officer to issue appearance tickets without going through the Town Court, and will allow the ACO to represent the town in court without an attorney. The major problems continue to be to define what constitutes a barking violation, and how to establish "proof" of a barking violation.

Blass Field: We have received a request from Doug Weaver of Superior Sanitation to permit the use of Blass Park as a leach field. Doug may be attending the meeting Thursday to explain his plan. To allow this use, the Town would have to get the NYS Legislature to pass a law permitting this kind of use. If the TB decides to pursue this idea, the costs of the process would have to be borne by the applicant.

County Issues

2013 County Budget: The County continues to work on the 2013 budget. We are still planning to hold County taxes flat again in 2013, for the third consecutive year. County budget will be adopted in mid-December.