

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin
Date: April 15, 2013
Supervisor's Report



Financial Report: Revenues for the three months ending March totaled \$889,000, including \$811,000 in property tax receipts and \$62,000 in 4Q 2012 sales tax receipts. Costs for the three months ending February totaled \$322,000, or about 24% of our full year budget. Spending for the first three months is slightly ahead of the full year run rate because we have pre-paid the full year's insurance premium of \$19,000 and bought a "new" used plow truck for \$35,000. Cash in the bank at the end of March totaled \$1,280,000, with \$56,000 checks outstanding but not yet cleared.

April 18 Town Board Meeting: It is looking like another relatively light Board meeting coming up:

1. **The barking dog law** – we will hold a public hearing at 6:45 pm on the revised draft of Local Law #1 of 2013, and will consider adopting the law as proposed or with any additional modifications.
2. **Wind Turbine Permit Revocation** – The Zoning Enforcement Officer has determined that the Special Use Permits issued in 2010 were issued based on misrepresentations and a failure to disclose relevant information about the noise problems associated with the Bergey Excel 10 wind turbines. Notices of Violations will be issued later this week, and the ZEO will refer the Notices of Violations to the ZBA so the ZBA can determine, after a public hearing, if permit revocations are appropriate. The proposed permit revocations are not designed to prevent the operation of these wind turbines, but to require that the turbines be shut down pending filing new applications which contain proper disclosures about the noise problems, so they can be reviewed and a plan to mitigate them can become part of the conditions regarding their operation. Once the Notices of Violations have been issued, there could be a \$200 per day fine for each turbine for failure to comply and shut the turbines down during the appeal or reapplication process.
3. **Legal Fees** – Our legal costs in 2013 will be substantially higher than the \$12,000 budgeted for legal matters. Two matters will cause higher than normal legal costs – the highway matter, and the wind turbine revocation matter. I will be proposing that we move \$10,000 from the contingent account to the attorney account to cover the highway matter. We have \$72,000 in the contingent account. The wind turbine matter has cost about \$6000 so far, and depending how this situation develops, could cost substantially more.
4. **Multiple Homes on a Parcel** – The Chair of the Planning Board has recommended that the TB consider allowing multiple principle homes on a single parcel as long as density, septic, water and setback requirements are met. We will review and discuss this proposal on Thursday.
5. **Historic Ancram Vestibule Project:** Lynne Perrella will be presenting a model of what the TH vestibule would look like after it is designed as display space for historic Ancram photos and artifacts. The project will cost about \$12,500, which I am confident we can raise from community contributions. I will recommend that the TB approve this project and "finance" it, so it can be implemented by mid to late summer, and be part of the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Ancram Town Hall, with the understanding that I will raise the needed funds by year-end.
6. **Heritage Resources Plan** – Over 75 people attended Saturday's special presentation on the Heritage Resources Plan. Several additional events are planned over the next few months, and the Heritage Resources Planning Committee plans to present the Plan to the TB for adoption later in the year. The Heritage Resources Committee has identified solving the septic problem in the center of Ancram as a critical precondition to attract investment to rehabilitate and put back to productive use the buildings in the Town Center.
7. **Financial Audits:** TB and FAC have completed the review of 2012 Town Supervisor, Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Town Court books and records.