

**To: Ancram Town Board**  
**From: Art Bassin**  
**Date: 12/15/2013**



**Subject: December 2013 Supervisor's Report**

**Financial Report:** Revenues and expenses through November continue to come in a bit ahead of plan, and as expected. Revenues for the eleven months ending November totaled \$1,302,000, including \$811,000 in property tax receipts and \$251,000 in sales tax revenues received in January, April, July and October. Full year revenues for sales and mortgage taxes look like they will exceed the 2013 budget by \$25,000 to \$50,000. Expenses through November totaled \$1,204,000. Cash on hand at the end of November totaled \$756,000 which is up about \$90,000 since the end of 2012.

**Town Issues**

- 1. Ridgeline Protection** – The ridgeline and steep slope protection law has been refereed back to the ZRC for additional review and a revised recommendation.
- 2. Property & Liability Insurance** – The Financial Advisory Council has been reviewing proposals from Trident, the Town's current insurance carrier, and NYMIR, a firm specializing in municipal liability and property insurance, which asked to be allowed to bid on our policies. NYMIR was very impressive, and price competitive, but in the end, FAC and I concluded that they were probably as good, but not better than the policies and Company we have in place, so we are recommending we stay with Trident.
- 3. Family Health Insurance** – Two employees have asked that the Town consider supporting health insurance for wives and families in addition to covering the employee. Some research with how this works in other towns in the area and at the County indicates it is common for a municipal employer to pay 50% of the premium cost for families under a town health insurance plan. There is a resolution for Thursday proposing that the Town considers this program.
- 4. Retiree Health Insurance** – We have received a proposal for a group Medicare advantage plan from Blue Shield of NY for our three retirees that will reduce our costs for 2014 by about \$1000 per retiree. The Slaters and Shufelts have spent time going over the plan with the Blue Shield representative, and are comfortable switching to this Blue Shield program.

**County Issues**

- 1. Airport** – The Airport Committee has been meeting to evaluate the proposed acquisition of land adjacent to the Airport to allow a \$3-4 million expansion of the runway safety zone, 95% of which will be paid for by the FAA and NYS. It appears that there are about 125-150 jet landings at the airport each year which require the expanded safety zone, out of about 7500 to 10,000 total landings each year. The Committee is looking at two options which would allow the safety zone requirement to be met either by shortening the 5350 foot runway to 5000 feet or 4500 feet. Both these options appear to be possible to implement more quickly, less expensively, with less disruption to the neighbors around the airport, and without the need for acquiring adjacent land in an eminent domain action. The Committee is likely to make its recommendations to the BOS in February or March.
- 2. 2014 County Budget** – The County has adopted a budgeted that increases county property tax by 2%, assumes no salary increases for County employees, and assumes the Pine Haven nursing home, which has been losing approximately \$2 million per year, will break even in 2014. The County budget assumes sales taxes in 2014 will be equal to the 2013 number, anticipates a continued improvement in the delinquent property tax collection situation, and holds staffing at current levels.