

**To: Ancram Town Board**  
**From: Art Bassin**   
**Date: March 17, 2013**  
**Subject: Monthly Supervisor's Report**

**Financial Report:** Revenues for the two months ending February totaled \$878,000, including \$811,000 in property tax receipts and \$62,000 in 4Q 2012 sales tax receipts. Costs for the two months ending February totaled \$232,000, or about 17% of our full year budget. Spending for the first two 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 January totaled \$1,334,000. We continue to benefit this year from a mild winter, allowing the highway department to spend less on snow removal.

**February 21 Town Board Meeting:** It is looking like a relatively light Board meeting coming up:

1. **The barking dog law** – please review the revised draft of Local Law #1 of 2013 and be prepared to discuss and decide if we want to pass the law as proposed or with any additional modifications.
2. **Appointing Assessor Ken Leggett** to another 6 year term starting October 1, 2013. Ken was the only applicant who submitted a letter of interest in the position.
3. **Appoint or Elect Highway Superintendent** - Discussing whether or not we want to consider appointing not electing the Highway Superintendent when Jim retires in 2015. If we decide we want to appoint the highway superintendent, we will have to take the matter to a referendum. Might make sense to schedule a public hearing on this in April or May.
4. **Borrow \$1.5 million to fix roads** – Highway Superintendent Jim MacArthur has proposed we consider borrowing \$1.5 million for 15 or 20 years to invest in repairing and improving town roads, and repaying the borrowing with a reduction in road repair funds now in the highway department. Highway Superintendent This plan should not cause any increase in property taxes. If we decide we want to do this, it will be subject to a permissive referendum.
5. **Wind Turbine Permit Revocation** - I have notified both Mr. Gershon and Mr. Crocco that the Zoning Enforcement officer will make a determination on the validity of their special use permits issues in 2010, which appear to have been issued based on misrepresentations and a failure to disclose relevant information about the noise problems associated with the Bergey Excel 10 wind turbines. The proposed permit revocation is not designed to prevent the operation of these wind turbines, but to require that a new application be filed which contains proper disclosures about the noise problems, so they can be reviewed and a plan to mitigate them be part of the conditions regarding their operation. Once the permits have been revoked, there could be a \$200 per day fine for failure to comply and shut the turbines down during the appeal or reapplication process.

**County Issue: NY SAFE Act** – 17 members of the County BOS voted last week to support a resolution advocating repeal of the NY SAFE Act, which was passed by the NY State Legislature in January following the shootings in Newtown, but noted that there were some sections of the SAFE Act that were worthy of support. The resolution did not specify which parts of the SAFE Act the resolution supported, or objected to, but did state that the process by which the law was passed, without sufficient public input, was a major cause for the repeal action. The resolution also opposed any additional Federal gun control regulations. I was one of 6 Supervisors who voted against the repeal resolution. My feeling is that the law should be amended to clear up ambiguities, correct any errors in drafting, and modify sections our State legislators have had second thoughts about since January. I think the right way deal with the concerns people have about the law is not to repeal, which is not likely to happen, but to continue the dialogue between the citizens groups on both sides of the issue, law enforcement professionals, legislators and the governor. This dialogue has been ongoing since the SAFE Act was passed in January by a bi-partisan majority of the NY State Legislature, and the SAFE Act still has the support of about 60% of New Yorkers. The NY Sheriff's Association has outlined a balanced, sensible and comprehensive approach to dealing with the issues related to the SAFE Act, which you can review on their web site at: <http://www.nysheriffs.org/articles/sheriffs'-response-ny-safe-act>