

**To: Ancram Town Board**  
**From: Art Bassin**  
**Date: 8/16/2014**



**Subject: July 2014 Supervisor's Report**

## **Town Issues**

**1. Financial Report** - We ended June with \$1,142,000 in the bank, and pretty much on target in terms of revenues and expenses against the 2014 budget. By year end, if we do not prepay the outstanding of the garage loan, we should have about \$800,000 in the bank reserves. If we do prepay the full \$280,000 remaining balance of the loan, we should end up with about \$560,000 in the bank. I will be recommending at the 8/21 TB meeting that we prepay the garage loan in September. We are paying 2.99% on the loan, and are earning .3% in interest on money in the bank. By prepaying we will save a total of \$25,000 in interest over the next 6 years.

**2. 2015 Budget** – Based on reviewing the 2015 Tentative Budget with each of you individually, I have made some minor changes, and assuming you agree on the prepayment of the garage loan, have eliminated the 47,000 principal and interest payment from the 2015 budget, and have added it back to the contingent account to replenish our financial reserves. The 2015 Tentative budget shows flat town taxes again in 2015. This will be the fifth year of flat or lower town property taxes. 2015 highway and general fund spending are flat to 2014, with non-tax revenues also flat to slightly higher than 2014.

**3. Legislative Calendar** – We have a lot coming up over the next few months that will require public hearings and Town Board action – the Unsafe Building Law, the 414 Issue, the right to farm law, the 2015 Budget, the integrated zoning law, the new subdivision law and the puppy mill/dog chaining issue. We should talk on Thursday about what we can defer into early 2015 so we do not get too much on the plate all at once.

## **County Issues**

**1. Airport & Pine Haven** – Nothing new of substance to report.

**2. Insurance** – The County decided last week to move its property and liability insurance to NYMIR through the Fingar Agency. Fingar/NYMIR was slightly less expensive overall and substantially less expensive for Pine Haven insurance than Houston Casualty, but Houston was about \$100,000 less expensive overall excluding Pine Haven. If we sell Pine Haven, Fingar/NYMIR will be \$100,000 a year more expensive than Houston, and the County will reopen the bidding at that time to seek a lower cost.

The County also last week decided to self-insure its health insurance program through MVP. MVP was the least expensive bidder for the administrative services contract when we took into account the administrative services fee charged, the cost of stop loss insurance and the provider discounts available through MVP. The County currently uses MVP health insurance, so the transition should be less disruptive for staff, and the provider network will stay the same, which the County's unions were supportive of.