

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin
Date: 2/16/2014



Subject: February 2014 Supervisor's Report

Town Issues

- 1. Financial Report** - We received \$805,000 in town taxes in January. January 2014 spending was affected by high costs for sand and salt in the Highway Department. We used up about 40% of our \$60,000 sand and salt budget in January, and probably as much again in February. We ended the month with \$1,428,000 in the bank, excluding the \$62,000 4Q13 sales tax check, which we received in early February.
- 2. DEC Culvert Study** – DEC has agreed to do a study of the Town's culvers as part of a statewide effort to study water management statewide. The objective is to identify culverts that are likely to be compromised depending on the severity of various weather events. This can help the Town prioritize plans to expand culvers over time to accommodate more severe weather. Kick off meeting is April 10.
- 3. Community Cleanup Day** – May 10. Details to follow.
- 4. Grants Coordination** - I have asked Gerry Fultz to become the point person for the Town in coordinating efforts to secure grants to support our various activities.
- 5. Rail Tales** – Lynne Perrella, and a strong supporting cast including Jim Miller, will launch a railroad exhibit in the Historic Vestibule with a party on Sunday, February 23 at 2 pm at Town Hall.
- 6. Fee Schedule** – FAC is recommending we keep the Town fee schedule pretty much as it is, with a change proposed for title searches (to \$50 from \$25) and with the addition of a "research fee" of \$25 per hour for any work done by the town Clerk or Historian to respond to non-routine requests for information. I will have a draft of the revised fee schedule for your review and approval Thursday night.

County Issues

- 1. Airport** – The Airport Committee is close to a recommendation to shorten the runway and build a safety zone on County land, eliminating the need for any land from the Meadowgreens. The Meadowgreens' owner has now proposed selling the entire golf course to the County. The County will review this proposal over the next before finalizing a decision on the runway safety zone.
- 2. Pine Haven** – The County has formed a committee to review the plan to build a new facility at a cost of about \$35 million. The Committee will also probably consider options to sell or outsource the management of Pine Haven. While it is important that we keep Pine Haven's 120 beds available in the County, there are organizations that more skilled at managing the facility than the County is. We need to get Pine Haven into the strongest possible management hands we can, for the benefit of Pine Haven's residents and the County's taxpayers.