

**To: Ancram Town Board**  
**From: Art Bassin**  
**Date: 9/15/2014**



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

**Town Issues**

- 1. Financial Report** - We ended August with \$673,000 after prepaying the full \$288,000 outstanding principal and interest on the garage loan. We should end the year with about \$560,000 in the bank. Overall, we are still tracking close to the budget. The only issue is the timing of CHIPS highway reimbursement money from the State. We have spent about \$152,000 on CHIPS projects so far, and usually would be reimbursed in September or October...but this year Jim MacArthur indicates we may not get our CHIPS reimbursement until December or January.
- 2. 2015 Tentative Budget** – We will hold a public hearing on the Tentative 2015 Budget on 9/18 at 6:30. Taxes are budgeted to remain flat in 2015. There are several uncertainties in the budget that we clarify over the next few months, including the cost of the retirement program, health insurance and property and liability insurance. Preliminary indications are the cost of our insurance policies may increase by under 10%, while our retirement program costs may actually decrease.
- 3. Public hearings** - We will holding four public hearings on 9/18:
  - Consolidated Zoning Law – 6 pm
  - 2015 Tentative Budget – 6:30 pm
  - 414 Library Tax Disclosure Law – 6:45 pm
  - Continuation of Unsafe building Law - 6:50 pm
- 4. Unsafe Building Law** – I have asked Building Inspector Ed Ferratto to give the Town Board a preliminary list of properties that may be subject to the proposed Unsafe Building Law, and to provide an background on these properties related to previous efforts at enforcement. I will be recommending that we wait for this report before we consider the unsafe building law for adoption. I am also concerned that most recent draft of the law we got from Jason Shaw dos not have any provision for a Town action other than demolition. We need to review that, and provide for less drastic measures when appropriate.

**County Issues**

- 1. Airport** - FAA has indicated they will approve the reclassification of the County Airport to B II to D II, which effectively reduces the required length of the runway safety area from 1000 feet to between 300 and 600 feet, which we can achieve on county owned land for under \$300,000..
- 2. Pine Haven** – Nothing new of substance to report. We expect proposals from private operators who may be interested in buying the nursing home by the end of October.
- 3. Department of Public Works** – The County has started a discussion on the future organizational structure and job description of the Commissioner of DPW, who currently oversees the County Highway Department, Solid Waste, Engineering and the County Airport. The 4 year term of the current DPW Commissioner ends early in November. Unfortunately, the County has not done a review of the challenges facing DPW over the next 5-10 years, and has not developed a “plan” which would define the resources, organizational structure and leadership needs of the County to deal with the county's infrastructure. Making any organizational or leadership changes prior to “getting the facts” on what is needed seems premature, but regrettably, consistent with prior County decision making practices.