

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin
Date: 9/13/2015
Subject: Supervisor's Report – September 2015



Town Issues

1. Financial Report – We ended August with \$900,000 in the bank. Revenues and spending through the end of August were as expected, with spending down about \$50,000 this year to date compared to the same period in 2014, excluding the \$280,000 loan repayment made in August 2014. Assuming no extraordinary financial events, we are on track to come in pretty much on budget for 2015. We took down a loan last week for \$396,665 to buy the two new plow trucks.

2. 2016 Preliminary Budget – Following the public hearing on the Tentative Budget, we should plan to make whatever adjustments appear necessary, agree on a Preliminary Budget at the 9/17 TB meeting, and schedule a public hearing for the Preliminary budget at the October 15 TB meeting. It still appears we will be able to reduce town taxes by about 1% (\$8,000) in 2016.

3. Culvert Grant – We learned last week that we have been awarded \$220,000 by DEC to improve culverts in town. Colleen Lutz did the grant application, and will report on this project at the 9/17 TB meeting.

County Issues

1. Pine Haven – Waiting for NYS Health Department approval. Could take 6-12 months.

2. CEDC - CEDC has elected new officers, is reviewing and revising their bylaws and is starting the process to negotiate a new contract with the County to restore funding. Two of the three individuals mentioned in the April 2015 ABO report as having apparent conflicts of interest related to the Ginsburg's land deal have resigned, and the third individual has indicated he plans to resign before year end.

3. County Management – The idea that the County is too complex to be managed well by 23 part time supervisors and a part time chairman without a full time elected Executive or appointed manager is beginning to gain support among supervisors again. The first step in this process would be to form a committee to study the options and solicit expert and public input on the pros and cons of either an appointed manager or an elected executive, and on either maintaining the board of supervisors, or moving to a county legislature. Stay tuned.