

**To: Ancram Town Board**  
**From: Art Bassin**  
**Date: 7/12/2015**  
**Subject: Supervisor's Report – July 2015**



## **Town Issues**

**1. Financial Report** – We ended June with \$1.1 million in the bank. Revenues and spending through the end of June were as expected, with spending down about \$25,000 this year to date compared to the same period in 2014, due mostly to the timing of costs. Assuming no extraordinary financial events, we are on track to come in pretty much on budget for 2015.

**2. 2016 Budget** - Preliminary indications are we will be able to reduce town taxes by about 1% (\$8,000) as part of the 2016 budget. We will start the formal budget process later this month.

**3. Plow truck purchase** - We expect to take possession of the two new plow trucks late in August or early in September. The major issue for the Town Board is to decide whether to finance both trucks and borrow about \$400,000, or to borrow for one and pay cash for the other. We currently have about \$700,000 in cash reserves. If we pay \$200,000 cash for one truck, we would end 2015 with about \$500,000 cash in the bank, and would probably end 2016 with about \$550,000 to \$575,000 in cash.

**4. Assessor's clerk** - We have received 6 applications for the assessor's clerk position. Assessor Leggett and I have discussed two options. Option one is replacing Mary Boice with a dedicated assessor's clerk working two half days (8 hours) a week. Option two is to expand the Town Clerk's responsibilities to include assessor clerk duties, adding 1 additional day a week to the Town Clerk's normal Town Hall schedule, which will give us assessor clerk coverage four days a week. Under this option we would hire a deputy town clerk/assessor clerk for one to two days a week on an as needed basis, which would average out to another 4 hours a week. Assessor Leggett is comfortable with option 2, as is Town Clerk Cleveland. We will discuss these options at the Board meeting next week, and if the TB approves, Assessor Leggett and I will interview the assessor clerk candidates in the next few weeks and will bring a specific proposal to the TB at the August TB meeting.

**5. 82/7 Intersection** - I have been in touch with NYS DOT over the past month about the safety issues at the 82/7 intersection. I have requested they consider taking action to further improve the sightlines east and west on 82 from the north side of 7, the turn radius north from 82 going west, and to lower the speed of traffic on 82 both ways to 15 mph. NYS DOT continues to take the position that there have been no accidents reported at that intersection, and they have more serious, higher traffic areas to deal with. DOT is getting close to deal with the retaining wall behind Simons, which is deteriorating and likely to collapse, closing down 82, if it's not repaired soon.

## **County Issues**

**1. Airport** - We have an agreement with the owners of the golf course to remove two clusters of trees.

**2. Pine Haven** – Nothing new to report. We are still working on the contract of sale. We are close.

**3. CEDC** - CEDC has hired a new interim executive director, and the County has asked the ABO to conduct an expanded investigation of CEDC. The major issue facing the County BOS is whether to continue funding CEDC or not. That issue will depend on negotiating a satisfactory contract with CEDC which provides adequate governance, control and reporting processes to allow for County oversight over the use of the \$437,000 of taxpayer money the County currently provides CEDC.