

**To: Ancram Town
Board**

From: Art Bassin

Date: 3/15/2015

Subject: Supervisor's Report – March, 2015



Town Issues

1. Financial Report – We ended February with \$1.293 million in the bank. Revenues and spending for the two months ending February 28 were normal, and slightly under the first two months of 2014. Highway spending this year has been about \$27,000 under last year, and general fund spending has been about \$10,000 under the same period last year.

2. Two new plow trucks – Highway Superintendent Jim MacArthur has reviewed with FAC his proposal that we buy 2 new Kenworth plow trucks for about \$400,000. If we do this, Jim believes we will not need another new truck for 5 years, when the loan to buy these two new trucks will have been paid off. Jim expects to sell the two trucks we will be replacing, which will reduce the cost of the loan to buy these new trucks by about \$20,000, and Jim estimates we will save about \$20,000 annually in maintenance. We can borrow the total cost of the trucks for 5 years at 1.99%, and because the loan will be 5 years or less, no referendum is necessary. Our annual payment for the two trucks will be about \$80,000, which is the amount of our annual contingent account budget. Assuming the highway department contributes \$40,000 to the annual cost of the truck payments, we will be able to handle the truck payments with no tax increase and still maintain a \$40,000 annual contingent budget for “emergencies. We will probably take down the loan late summer or early fall 2015, so our first \$80,000 payment will be due a year later. As you may recall, we had been paying \$40,000 a year plus interest for the garage loan we took down in 2010, which we paid off last summer. That loan was at 2.99%. By year end 2015 we should have a cash reserve of about \$700,000, up from the \$632,000 we ended 2014 with. Even if we borrow the \$400,000 to buy these two new trucks, we should end 2016 with about \$750,000 in the bank, and may be in a position to prepay the truck loan in two or three years. FAC recommends that we approve Jim's request to buy the two new trucks. .

3. Pool Plan – Bob Wilcox reviewed the preliminary pool plan with FAC on Saturday. The Pool Committee is recommending that we do not move the pool from Blass Field to the Town Hall – it's just too expensive to build a new pool and support complex at TH. The Committee has identified investments we may want to consider to improve the pool complex in place. The issue is what the likely level of pool usage will be in the future, and whether there is and will be enough usage of the pool going forward to justify major investments. Bob and other pool committee members will review their process and findings with the TB on Thursday, and recommend next steps.

4. Kid's Camp Director – No interest yet in the Kid's Camp director job.

County Issues

1. Airport – Still waiting for FAA approval to reclassify the airport from D II to B II. FAA has indicated it could be a 60 - 90 day process.

2. Pine Haven – BOS voted to sell Pine Haven to Premier. Next step is to negotiate the contract and apply to the NYS BOH for approval. The process could take a year. Premier will assume management responsibility for the PH facility over the next few months, and should be able to improve operations and the economics of the facility.

3. Summer intern program - County is offering summer intern positions to county residents on their way to college in the Fall, or in college currently. Each Supervisor is allowed to appoint one individual. I have already received an application from a very well qualified Ancram college senior, who I plan to appoint to the position. There may be other positions available, so I will circulate the information to the Ancramemail list to solicit other applicants.