

**To: Ancram Town Board**  
**From: Art Bassin**  
**Date: 12/13/2015**  
**Subject: Supervisor's Report**



## **Town Issues**

**1. Financial Report** – We ended November with \$847,000 in the bank. Revenues and spending through the end of November have been as expected, with the exception of our NYS retirement payment coming in at \$65,000, about \$15,000 over budget due to a prior year adjustment and a revision in how the State computed the Town's retirement cost. We have been advised by the State that next year the retirement payment will be about \$15,000 less than this year, and back to "normal". Operating spending in the General and Highway funds are slightly under last year and about flat to budget, excluding "financial transactions" like the \$240,000 loan prepayment made in August 2014 and the \$396,000 truck loan taken out in September, 2015. We are on track to come in pretty much on budget for 2015, with an expected year-end 2015 cash balance of between \$750,000 and \$775,000, and a year-end 2016 cash balance of about \$800,000.

**2. Culvert grant** – We have received three proposals for engineering support for the \$275,000 culvert grant project. The Culvert Grant Committee will review the proposals with CAC and DEC, and will recommend an engineering firm to assist in the culvert project at the January 4 year-end meeting.

**3. Central Hudson LED Program** – I have asked Kim Tripp, Ann Rader, Gerry Fultz and Derek Porter to serve on a LED Committee to evaluate the Central Hudson request that we allow conversion of our street lights to LEDs, and recommend a course of action to the TH.

**4. Health Insurance** – I have been continuing to review our health insurance options, focusing on the 50% co pay feature of the Bronze plan versus the fixed \$ copays of the silver plan. I hope to have completed my review of this issue by Thursday, at which point I will either recommend we confirm our decision last month to go with the Bronze plan (\$411 monthly premium, 50% copays, \$3500 deductible, \$6850 max out of pocket), or that we consider moving to the Silver plan (\$488 premium, fixed \$ copays, \$2000 deductible, \$5500 max out of pocket). The unpredictability of the 50% co pays has caused me to reopen this matter for review.

## **County Issues**

- 1. 2016 Budget** – The County approved a 2016 budget with a .6% tax increase, or about \$300,000. The County is likely to end 2015 with little or no cash on hand, and the 2016 budget does not envision raising enough in taxes to improve that situation by year-end 2016. But with the pending sale of Pine Haven and the expected receipt of some Pine Haven IGT funding, we are likely to end 2016 with \$5 million more cash on hand than we will have at the end of 2015.
- 2. Year-end Cash Position** - The County had about \$4.5 million in the general fund at the end of November, with a \$7 million retirement payment due to NYS in mid-December. In general the County has been doing a better job managing its money and disclosing its numbers in the last few years, but Pine Haven continues to be a drain on County resources, requiring about \$5 million in County support his year.
- 3. Pine Haven** – We expect to close the PH sale during the first half of 2016. The prospective new owners have been running the facility since April, and have managed in 6 months to raise the resident count from 82 to 118, and have implemented a new billing and receivables system to better manage cash. Reports are that the new operators are doing an excellent job with residents and staff.