

**To: Ancram Town Board**  
**From: Art Bassin**  
**Date: 11/13/2016**



**Subject: November 2016 Supervisor's Report**

**1. Financial Report** – October was another “normal” financial month. Through October, total spending in the general fund was up over the same period in 2015 about \$20,000, caused primarily by \$19,000 of 2016 pool capital improvements, \$8,000 in camp costs, \$13,000 in costs related to removing the old drainage tank and installing the oil/water separator at the town garage, and buying the Houghtaling property (\$3000). These cost increases over 2015 were offset by lower park management/maintenance costs (\$10,000), lower audit costs (\$6,000), lower attorney costs (\$6,000), lower CAC costs (\$8,000) and by higher than expected pool and camp donations (\$11,000). Excluding the \$399,000 truck purchase last year, Highway department spending is flat this year over last, after absorbing the \$84,000 truck bond payment. We had about \$932,000 of cash on hand at the end of September, and about \$138,000 in culvert grant receivables. Assuming we get reimbursed for the culvert grant prior to year-end, we should end 2016 with about \$825,000 in cash. We have been notified that our second mortgage tax check will be \$12,500, which we should receive before year-end. Full year 2016 mortgage tax will be about \$33,000, compared to a budget of \$25,000. And in October we received a \$75,000 3Q sales tax check from the County, up from about \$72,000 last October.

**2. 2017 Final Budget** – We will hold a public hearing on the 2017 Final Budget at 6.45 pm on Thursday 11/17. The Final Budget indicates a 2017 tax levy that is \$8,500 (1%) lower than the 2016 tax levy, with a \$50,000 contingent (reserve) account. Budgets for health, property and liability insurance are set at 2016 budgeted levels. Property and liability insurance estimates have come in at 2016 levels, and increases in health insurance premiums are offset by two fewer individuals covered. NYS retirement costs have been estimated by NYS at \$45,000, \$1000 less than the 2016 actual cost and \$5000 less than the 2016 and proposed 2017 budgets.

**3. Garage Oil/Water Separator** – We have received the permit and are waiting for delivery of the tanks, which the highway department will install.

**4. Parcel adjacent to Town Garage** – We purchased this .54 acre parcel from the County for \$2500 plus closing costs. The highway department will demolish the trailer on that is in the parcel. We are getting estimates on demolishing the house on the property assuming asbestos.

**5. Culvert Grant** – Work is done on the Pats Rd culvert. The site has been cleaned up, reseeded and plants have been planted. The road over the culvert will get paved next spring. We will review the plantings next summer to see if more plants are needed to adequately screen the culvert. Highway Superintendent Jim Miller is reviewing guard rail options, including the option of not having guard rails. We have spent \$193,000 of the \$275,000 allocated for the Pats Rd and Hall Hill Rd culverts. Pats Rd accounted for about \$120,000 of the \$193,000. And in the \$193,000, we have already paid \$60,000 for the Hall Hill culvert and about \$20,000 for the basic engineering work on both culverts. We expect the installation of the Hall Hill culvert to cost less than Pats Rd. Overall costs of Pats Rd came in about \$15,000-20,000 over the original estimate. We expect to recover some of this overrun when we do the Hall Hill culvert next summer. The estimate did not cover the costs for cleanup, reseeding and replacing plants, did not have a contingency for unexpected conditions, and underestimated the cost of highway time and equipment needed to install. Lessons learned for next time.

**6. 11/13 Veterans Event** – On Sunday, 11/13 we had a very successful grand opening of the veteran's exhibit in the Historic Vestibule at Town Hall. Lynne Perrella did her usual magnificent job with the exhibit and organizing the entire event. Over 100 people attended a musical salute to our veterans by Mark Rust. Deputy Supervisor Hugh Clark presented certificates of appreciation to veterans Prope Dietter, Bob Grayson, Gerry Roberts and Ron Van Tassel, and to the family of Frank LaCasse, for Frank's distinguished service in WWII.

**7. County Issues** – County 2017 budgeted tax levy increase is likely to come in under the tax cap of .68%.