

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin
Date: 10/16/2016
Subject: Supervisor's Report



1. Financial Report – September was another “normal” financial month. Through September, 2016, our total spending in the general fund was up over the same period in 2015 about \$15,000, caused primarily by \$18,000 of 2016 pool capital improvements. Camp and pool costs were also up, offset by higher than expected pool and camp donations, and lower park costs. 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 have spent \$183,000 of the \$275,000 allocated for the Pats Rd and Hall Hill Rd culverts. Pats Rd accounted for about \$120,000 of the \$183,000. We expect Hall Hill to cost less than Pats Rd when we install the Hall Hill culvert next spring. We had about \$928,000 of cash on hand at the end of September, and about \$133,000 in culvert grant receivables. Assuming we get reimbursed for the culvert grant prior to year-end, we should end the year with about \$825,000 in cash. We have been notified that our second mortgage tax check will be \$12,500. Full year 2016 mortgage tax will be about \$33,000, compared to a budget of \$25,000.

2. 2017 Preliminary Budget – We will hold a public hearing on the 2017 Preliminary Budget at 6.45 pm on Thursday 10/20. The Preliminary Budget indicates a tax levy that is flat to 2016 with a \$56,000 contingent (reserve) account. As we learn more about our “uncontrollable” costs (health, property and liability insurance and the state retirement fund), and work our way through a review of salaries, the numbers will move around a bit. As in the past 6 years, I think we should be targeting a final 2017 tax levy that is a percent or so under 2016.

3. Oil/Water Separator – Permit has been approved, but we have not yet gotten it. We have ordered the tanks and plan to install them in the next month or so.

4. Parcel adjacent to Town Garage – This .54 acre parcel has been taken over by the County in a tax foreclosure. County has offered it to Ancram for \$2500, and the TB has approved this purchase. In addition to the \$2500 we will be responsible for unpaid property taxes which could add another \$1500. This deal should close before year-end. We are getting estimates on taking the buildings down assuming asbestos.

5. County Issues – NYS Comptroller determined the County was not under “fiscal stress” during 2015. This is the first time since the State Fiscal Stress Monitoring System was put into place that the County has not been in “fiscal stress”.