

**To: Ancram Town Board**  
**From: Art Bassin**  
**Date: August 12, 2017**  
**Subject: Supervisor's Report**



**1. Financial Report** – July was another normal month financially. The Financial Advisory Council met today (8/12) and recommends the Town prepay the entire remaining balance of the plow truck loan of \$243,000 this year, to save \$9,000 in interest over the next three years. Assuming we do prepay the truck loan, cash on hand at 12/31 will be about \$700,000. The FAC also recommends that the annual interest and principal that we would have paid over the next three years (about \$84,000 annually) be added to the contingent account in order to replenish our cash reserves and preserve our ability to borrow again in the future if necessary. I have adjusted the Tentative Budget to eliminate the 2018 interest and principal payment in the Highway Fund, and have increased the contingent account in the general fund from \$56,000 to \$130,000. At \$130,000 a year, we will replenish the prepayment of the truck loans by February 2019, or in about 18 months. We still have about \$50,000 of possible revenue and cost opportunities in 2017 which, if they materialize, could improve our year-end cash position. FAC is also working on a proposal for the TB recommending we invest our excess cash in a series of CDs to improve the interest earned on our cash reserves. We should have that proposal before next week's TB meeting.

**2. Highway** – The Hall Hill Culvert was set in place on 8/11. The project is scheduled to be completed by Friday 8/18. So far no major problems, except some scheduling issues between the crane company and the culvert delivery, which has slowed things down by about a week. Jim got the part to fix the grader, but still plans to rent a "newer" used grader in September to determine if it will be big enough for our needs and if we should consider it for purchase. As you may recall, a newer used grader could cost between \$60,000 and \$120,000, while a new grader could cost about \$250,000. FAC discussed the grader at its 8/12 meeting and tentatively concluded it did not make sense to invest \$250,000 in a new grader, but wants to discuss this with Jim at some point.

**3. Kids Camp and Pool** – Camp ends 8/18, and the pool will close the end of August. Pool/Camp donations and fees are about \$27,000, about \$4,000 higher than budgeted and \$1,000 higher than last year. I have started discussions with our Head Lifeguard and Camp Director about 2018, and will update you at the TB meeting on how things are looking for 2018.

**4. Unsafe building** – Code Enforcement Officer Ed Ferratto will be notifying owners of buildings that may become "threats to public safety" to take steps to secure their buildings. At some point in the future it is likely that we will need to take action under LL #2 of 2015 if owners do not take steps secure their buildings.

**5. Long Lake Home Owners Association** – Long Lake HOA will request TB consent to allow them to form transportation companies as required by NYS to own and operate their water and wastewater facilities. We should have documents to review before our 8/17 meeting.

**6. Comprehensive Plan Review** – Hugh Clark requested a proposal for TB review from Planner Nan Stolzenburg to assist the Town to conduct a review of the 2010 Comprehensive Plan. This effort should cost about \$15,000. You should have received an email copy of this proposal. We will convene a Comp Plan Review Committee to manage this project, and should be able to complete the effort by the end of 2018.

**7. 2018 Tentative Budget** – We will take a first look at the draft Tentative Budget at the 8/17 TB meeting. At this early stage of the process we are looking at about a \$7,000 (1%) drop in taxes. I will schedule meetings with each TB member to solicit comments on the budget over the next month, so we can incorporate your comments in the "final" Tentative Budget, which we will present to a public hearing prior to the September TB meeting. In addition to incorporating the truck loan prepayment into the 2018 Tentative budget, I am proposing a \$15,000 increase to the Planning budget to \$20,000 to accommodate the Comp Plan Review, and routine other Planning/Zoning activities, and have added \$1500 more to Celebrations to accommodate the planned Winter Fest event in December 2018.

**8. Columbia County** – Work on the shared services plan continues, and the 2018 budget process has started. County plans a series of meetings in towns around the county to talk about the opioid epidemic and what can be done to deal with it.